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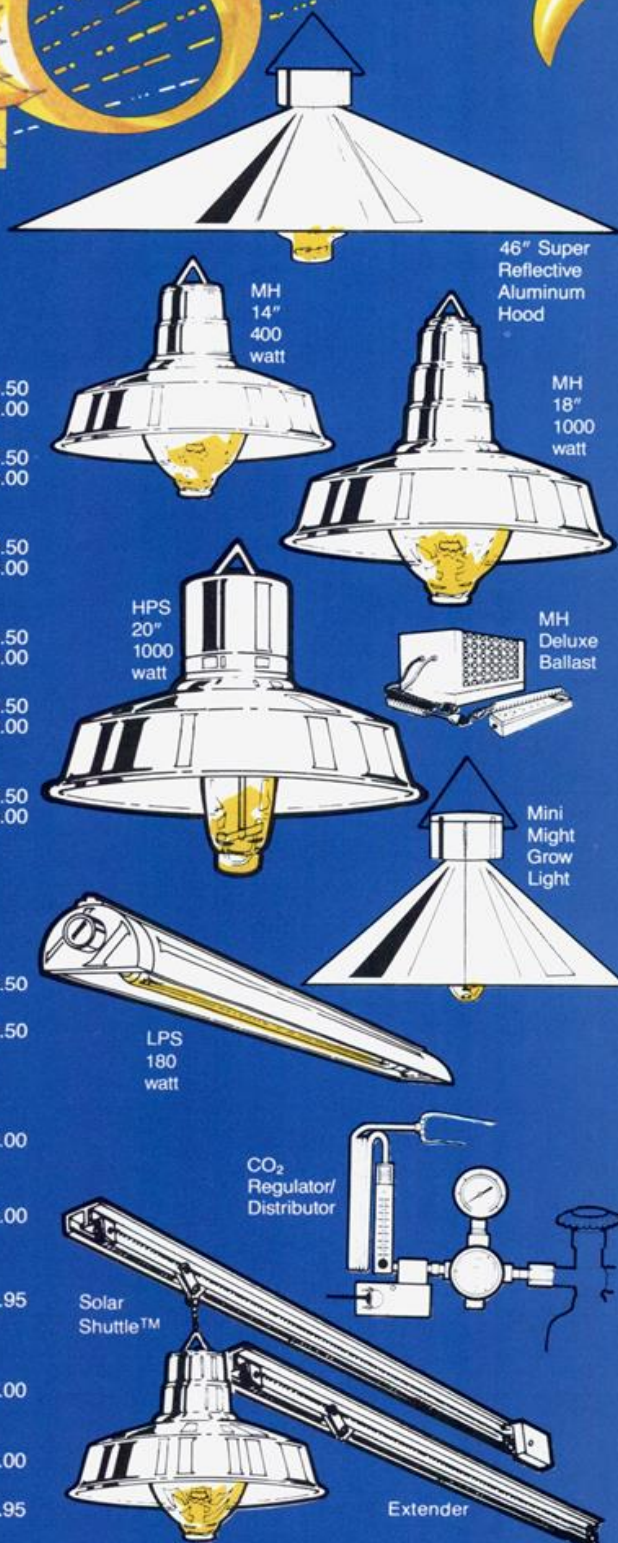
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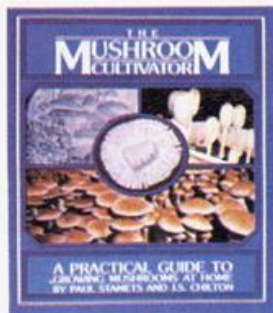


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If you read all of the popular literature: I did. All of the scientific literature: I did. And look at every apparatus that is in High Times, you will find one common denominator. Every system, UP TILL NOW, has attempted to re-create Hawaii. I suggest that when you finally achieve the re-creation of Hawaii, you can do NO BETTER than Hawaii's results. AND WHAT ARE HAWAII'S RESULTS?

In fact you will grow the plant 6 to 9 months, 6 to 12 feet tall. In fact you will average a 6 inch internodal length. (distance between budding sites). In fact have a 10% budding ratio at the tops of the plant. In fact, throw away 90% of the plant material (leaves/shake). And in fact YOU MUST START ALL OVER AGAIN.

Look. The only thing I'm waiting nine months for is a baby, number one. Number two, I do not want a tree in my house. And number three, I am not going to pay the ELECTRIC BILL TO PRODUCE THE SUN somewhere in my closet. Do not let its pretty looks fool you. Do not let its size (3 1/2 feet tall x 18 inches wide) fool you. Do not let its weight at 17 lbs fool you.



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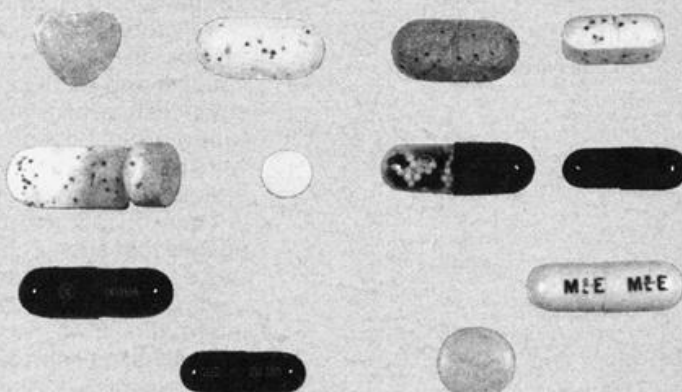
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EDITOR'S NOTE

● Last December, *Harper's* magazine sponsored a drug symposium in its pages. Typically, for the mainstream media, the round table discussion was called "What is America's Drug Problem?" (as if nobody really knew). Among the comments were reasonable ones by Professor Arnold Trebach, director of American University's Institute on Drugs, Crime, and Justice, who said that in terms of sheer numbers, our worst problem drugs are the *legal* recreational drugs — alcohol and tobacco; that people take drugs because they like them; and who called for the controlled legalization of cocaine and marijuana. Prof. Lester Grinspoon also sounded sensible, as when he said, "Instead of devising ways to arrest everyone, maybe we should encourage people to be more intelligent and prudent in how they handle these substances." ● Then there were the usual idiocies, in this case perfectly summed up out of the mouth of the self-appointed Guardian of Morals, U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani, who wondered "Why is it miseducation to tell people marijuana is bad for them — that it is dangerous?" (The answer that such a claim is untrue didn't seem to satisfy Mr. Clean.) ● In a followup to this session, *Harper's* asked for responses from a number of interested parties, including HIGH TIMES. Our reply in the March issue read (in part): "Anyone who gets their information from the field rather than from lab tests, ideologies, or personal prejudice knows that millions of Americans take drugs for millions of reasons; getting 'high' can mean anything from sheer hedonistic fun to a serious spiritual quest. History shows us that when millions of Americans want something, they'll do anything to get it — even to the point of deciding that the law is wrong and that it needs changing. Whenever Americans have heard that their government 'knows best,' they have reached for their rights — and that's what millions of our citizens are telling authorities by their daily decisions." ● For 12 years, HIGH TIMES has been bringing you the whole, unvarnished truth in a national, monthly magazine which has become a publishing legend for its no-holds-barred journalism. As we look back on a publishing history marked by many journalistic high points, it sometimes seems as if we've been a voice howling in the wilderness, that we are still fighting the same fight against prejudice, ignorance, and arbitrary, tyrannical power. Yet we have solid evidence that we have made a difference, evidence in the form of you, the many thousands of our committed readers. Stay tuned as we begin our 13th year of publication, as we continue to be a media advocate for the causes we all believe in. ●

From on high,

John Howell

Editor-in-chief

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COVER PHOTO BY DICK HOOLE

LETTERS



EFFERVESCENT NATION

One thing I've always wanted to do was try my hand at making the real Coca-Cola. What I need is for some nice person to import some seeds, seedlings or clippings from the coca plant and the kola-nut tree. I need to get a good greenhouse crop, pick them at the peak of their ripeness and brew them with pure Rocky Mountain spring water and pure fructose, I'd ferment it lightly and bottle it like champagne. Maybe add some Ginseng root for the complete health food drink. Of course, I couldn't eliminate the use of cocaine or drive the Coca-Cola Company out of business, but I would always have a greater demand than I could supply. And if I got real crazy and wanted to put some of my best Sinsemilla bud in there, what would it hurt? —'H'

Ed—Yech! Raw pot suspended in Coca-Cola syrup? That would be even lousier than the New Coke.

FLAMING YOUTH

I've been using drugs for about four years (I'm 21) and I have never been in trouble with the law or even my parents. I have a three-point average in college and enjoy raising hell when I'm stoned. I enjoy being in the Twilight Zone, too. I get a kick out of my roommates when they tell me drugs are ruining my life. I laugh at them because they are "wallflowers." I truly enjoy your magazine. Where else can one get 100 pages with entertainment, news, and politics? Count me in. One question on your article on the government seizing property from pot growers (Case-in-Point, March '86): does the Act allow seizure of property if the pot is grown indoors?

—P.O.T.
Rochester, New York

Ed—You bet your boonie it does.

continued on page 12

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FLASHES

● MISTER X is the mysterious architect/chemist of *Radiant City*, otherwise known as *Somnopolis*, and only Mister X knows the hidden network of secret passages that enable him to appear and disappear anywhere in the city.

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This comic series, created by Dean Motter and published in Canada, has been illustrated by a variety of first-rate artists, including Jamie and Gilbert Hernandez (of *Love and Rockets* fame), and the city of *Somnopolis* bears a strong resemblance to the futuristic London found in the film *Brazil*.

Mister X is one of the freshest and most unusual characters in recent comic history. So, forget Gotham City and give *Somnopolis* a visit. Issues are \$1.75. For info write *Vortex Comics*, 96 Spadina Ave., 9th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 2J5. ●

● "See The Pyramids in high style with this homemade bong," writes a *HIGH TIMES* reader from somewhere on the Nile. Actually, we can't vouch for the final effect of smoking good Egyptian stuff through an old insect repellent can, but it kind of looks nifty, no? ●



VORTEX COMICS



MY AMERIKA BY ED HASSLE

● WHY ISN'T OUR HOLY WEED LEGAL YET? Why can't we toké up in peace? It makes me madder than a pothead who just soaked his stash in rancid bong water whenever I think about this pathetic situation. I was reading a report the other day written in the late '60s that predicted marijuana would be legal by 1986. Well, it's 1986 and there's not a single Congressman willing to support legalization. In fact, the entire country seems to be undergoing a wave of anti-drug hysteria.

I was talking to my Bangladesh guru Ramjam the other day and he told me we live on one of the few planets in the universe that has outlawed pot. According to Ramjam, aliens have made frequent forays to this planet just to sample the local *sinsemilla*. Our herb is considered so superb that we could easily export it to space.

The CIA knows this. But so far, they refuse to deal with the pot-smoking aliens because they would prefer to sell heroin. As everyone knows, the CIA controls the world market on heroin, while the pot market is largely in the hands of freethinking, back-to-the-land hippies like myself.

In 3 million years B.C., the planet Mars was a flourishing garden of Eden until the local pigs went on a pot eradication binge, polluting the landscape with paraquat and other toxic substances. The effects can be seen today. The rest of the solar system, on the other hand, has been in a pot-smoking frenzy for millions of years. According to Ramjam, Venusian growers have cultivated pot plants larger than many New York skyscrapers. The cloud which permanently enshrouds their planet is actually the result of fumes released by billions of devoted heads. (In a strange coincidence, the pot-smokers of Venus actually wear their hair in Rastafarian-like braids.)

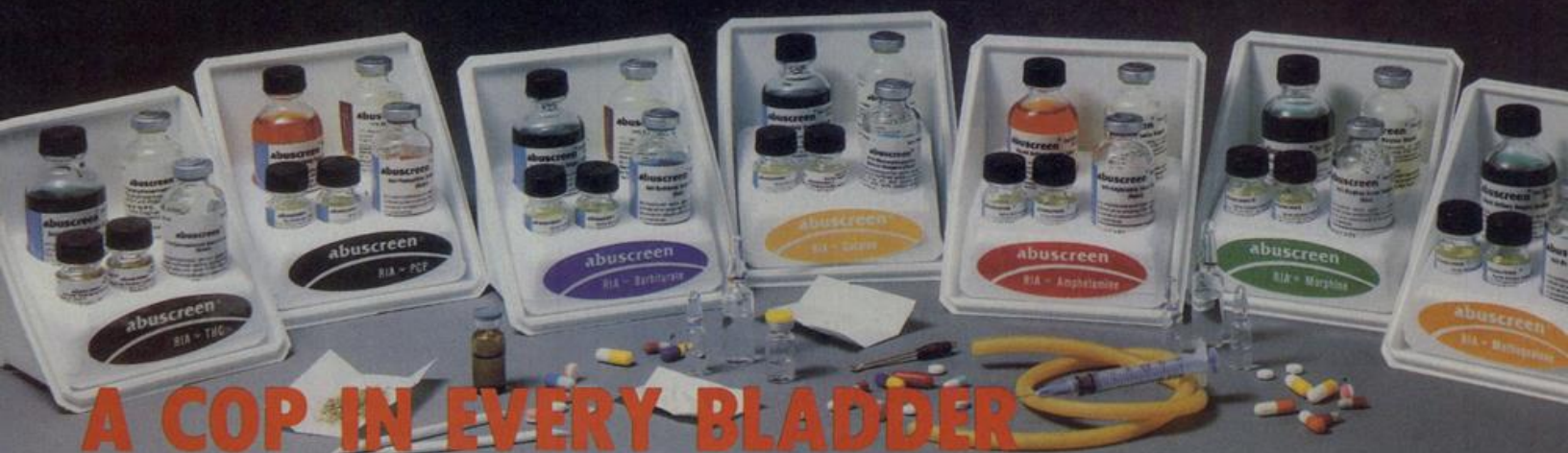
If the situation here gets much worse, Ramjam suggests we take over the Space Shuttle program and transport our friends to a more friendly planet, where we can smoke in peace. In the meantime, write your Congressman and let him know where you stand on this crucial issue. ●

PEACE, Ed

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● And you thought the HIGH TIMES centerfolds were pornographic? Here's the promo for the new Abuscreen drug-urinalysis system from Roche Diagnostics of Nutley, New Jersey (a subsidiary of the Hoffman-LaRoche drug company). The Roche system is even cheaper and quicker than the standard EMIT urinalysis system, and exactly as inaccurate. Both the EMIT and Abuscreen systems are mere "immunoassays," or preliminary screening tests; as any honest and knowledgeable chemist will affirm, immunoassays consistently tend to register "false positive" results—to find drugs that

aren't present in urine samples—at least 10 percent of the time in ordinary operation, and ring up false negatives—fail to find drugs that are there—at least 25 percent of the time. Accordingly, the manufacturers of these machines always scrupulously advise their customers that any allegedly "positive" samples should be rechecked by better analytical methods before any adverse action is taken against the urine donors. But people who lose their jobs or are denied employment because of piss-test positives don't know that, and so most employers who use these machines don't bother to

confirm preliminary Abuscreen and EMIT results with more accurate and expensive lab techniques.

It's all for our own good. It would scare a lot of people away from smoking pot if they knew that accurate gimmicks were being used to check for pot traces in urine, and it'll scare even more people to learn that the gimmicks being used aren't accurate at all, and are just as likely to brand you for life as a "drugs abuser" whether you've ever been near the stuff or not. The idea is to scare people, and there is certainly a great deal of money in that nowadays for the makers of garbage like this. ●

FLASH: ROCKIN', TOKIN' AND TRIPPIN' ON THE FOURTH

This July 3rd and 4th, the Coalition for Rock and Roll Freedom will sponsor a two-day concert protesting Ronald Reagan's ban of rock music from the Fourth of July festivities in our nation's capitol (where are the Beach Boys of yesteryear?). The boogying will break out at the Lincoln Memorial! Meanwhile, protestors against the current marijuana laws will gather in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on the Fourth to let Ronzo get a few whiffs of some great stuff. Afterwards, a caravan will leave for the Rainbow gathering in Pennsylvania, where plans will be laid to gather people to go to Oregon to work for the Oregon Marijuana Initiative. For further info, call (212) 533-5028.

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LETTERS

continued from page 8

WHITHER NORML?

I called NORML for literature and they couldn't send it. Why? No stamps! This is a modern, '80s, hi-tech activist network, hopefully infiltrating the Washington political scene with undaunted determination. I tried again later and was informed by their "activist authority" that the entire membership of NORML tops a whopping 6,000! If one in three adults smokes pot and their entire recruitment is 6,000, maybe somebody is in the wrong business.

—Eric Lebherz
Falls Church, Virginia

Ed—Kevin Zeese, NORML's National Director, responds: "There are thousands of people who support NORML passionately and would be proud to be members, but they just don't dare. In today's climate of Drug McCarthyism, formally joining NORML could be equivalent to signing up with the Communist Party in the early '50s. So, a lot of people who support us don't declare it publicly because they'd be crucified by neo-conservative groups like the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth. Actually, NORML suffers from an excess of success. Over ten years ago we succeeded in having pot decriminalized, either by legislation or de facto, in 45 of the 50 states. Not many of the 30 million people who smoke marijuana have to worry about getting arrested or thrown in jail, so why should they bother with joining NORML? However, I anticipate membership will shoot through the roof in the next few years, now that the government's going after consumers with the same tactics they've used on dealers."

PINES FOR THE BAD OLD DAYS

I miss those articles on big operations gone sour: Ton of Pot Confiscated, and so on. I've been collecting HIGH TIMES since the beginning, but I got busted in a drug raid and they took every issue. I started collecting again in 1979. I still miss those old volumes. But don't get me wrong, HIGH TIMES is still first on my list. I think I'll start buying those vintage issues so I can sit and light one and remember the good ole days.

—D.S.

Ed—That's puzzling. We cover plenty of big pot busts in the Highwitness News section. Since around 1980, when coke smuggling gained ascendance over pot, we've had to cover more coke busts, that's all.

continued on page 16

THE YOUR CHOICE FOR THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE!

HIGH TIMES TOP 40

FLASHES

1 SINSE

2. MIAMI VICE

3. GRATEFUL DEAD

4. Burgers! 
WITH EVERYTHING!

5. SEX

6. Budweiser

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

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13. Homegrown

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14. CLAMS ON THE HALF SHELL

15. AMIGA COMPUTERS

16. Led Zeppelin

17. RED LIGHT BULBS 

18. Sleeping Late

19. THE SONICS

20. GREEN ACRES

ARNOLD FOR PRESIDENT!

21. PIZZA WITH EXTRA CHEESE 

22. LOUIE LOUIE

NOT JUST A SONG - A WAY OF LIFE!

23. Maria Shriver

T.V.'S SEXIEST NEWSCASTER!

24. MOTORCYCLES
= VROOM! 

25. HAWAII 

26. BECK-OLA

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27. Colombian 

28. ADRENALINE

WHAT WOULD LIFE BE WITHOUT IT?

29. Hendrix 

FALL, MOUNTAINS, JUST DON'T FALL ON ME

30. PEANUT BUTTER AND BANANA SANDWICHES

31. The Young Ones

NEIL IS GOD!

32. Iron City

NOT JUST A BEER - A WAY OF LIFE!

33. Chocolate ANYTHING

34. DAFFY DUCK 

35. Red Hot Chili Peppers

36.  HI! WISH YOU WERE HERE! POST CARDS

37. MOE HOWARD

THE ORIGINAL BEATLE!

38. Afghan Hash 

39. Bob Marley and the Wailers

RASTAMAN VIBRATION

40. ROLLING ROCK

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NORMALIZER

CONSERVATIVES AND MARIJUANA PROHIBITION

● If Reagan were true
to his conservative
principles, he would
lead the effort to
reform marijuana
laws. ●

98.6

BY KEVIN ZEESE

After reviewing the President's State of the Union address, I understand better why some leading conservatives have endorsed the legalization of marijuana and other drugs. Philosophically, ending the prohibition of marijuana seems to be a conservative one—small government, government out of peoples' private lives, reducing the deficit and focusing enforcement on violent criminals.

In his address President Reagan said many things I could say about marijuana policy: "Government, growing beyond our consent, had become a lumbering giant ... threatening to crush the very roots of our freedom."

"Tonight, freedom is on the march. We stand for an idea whose time is now. Only by lifting the weights from the shoulders of all can people truly prosper. ...

"Tonight, let us speak of our responsibility to redefine government's role—not to control, not to demand or command, not to contain us but to help in times of need and, above all, to create a ladder so that all Americans can climb toward ... justice on their own."

"But we cannot win the race to the future shackled to a system. ... We cannot win that race held back by horse-and-buggy programs that waste tax dollars. ...

"Our deepest longing for the future (is) to leave our children a land that is free and just. ... But we cannot stroll into the future with childlike faith. Our differences with a system that openly proclaims and practices an alleged right to command peoples lives...by force are deep and abiding."

Tonight, freedom is on the march."

While President Reagan could have been talking about marijuana policy—with its tremendous cost to taxpayers, its

failure, its forced coercion of the individual and its undermining of freedom—I realize that he was only talking in broad philosophical generalities. Indeed, President Reagan has been all too willing to ignore his conservative philosophy and allow government to spend and spend on a social program that will never work. He forgets his own rhetoric—that government throwing money at a problem cannot always solve it. Especially when dealing with social problems, conservatives recognize that government has its limitations.

If Mr. Reagan were true to his conservative principles he would be leading the effort to reform the marijuana laws. He would recognize that reform of the marijuana laws would result in savings of billions in law enforcement expenditures and would result in raising over \$10 billion in annual new tax revenues. Both would be welcome in these times of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings and record federal deficits. Instead, President Reagan has pursued an aggressive war on marijuana, one he announced in 1982 on the same day that the National Academy of Sciences recommended that marijuana be legalized.

Reform would also shrink governments involvement in the private lives of U.S. citizens. No longer would our free government be "openly proclaiming" its "right to command peoples lives by force." Instead, the individual would be allowed to choose what to do with his or her body. The government's limited role would be to provide accurate information to encourage responsible decision making and to use its police power where marijuana use affects others. For example, to enforce laws against driving under the influence or against sales to minors.

In addition, repeal of the criminal laws against marijuana would restore the family as the front line against drug abuse.

No longer would the threat of arrest and incarceration stifle communication within the family. Today "big parent" government laws make it difficult for a child to talk openly with his parents about drug use among his peers. The threat of arrest stops communication within the family.

But unlike his fellow conservatives, William Buckley, James Kirkpatrick, Milton Friedman and Ernest van den Haag, Mr. Reagan is inconsistent in his small government, conservative philosophy. Perhaps his inconsistency stems from ignorance. After all, Mr. Reagan is our oldest President ever. His peers probably have no first hand experience with marijuana. Therefore he has to rely on advisors like Edwin Meese who publicly proclaim marijuana to be a narcotic even though no health professional has taken that position for over a decade. Or even worse, Carlton Turner who proclaims that marijuana causes brain damage, chromosome damage, heroin use, crime and even AIDS, even though the great weight or research debunks these claims.

Hopefully Mr. Reagan is acting out of ignorance and not political grandstanding. Creating a boogey man out of marijuana allows law enforcement budgets to increase and civil liberties to erode. It also allows a politician to play to the masses and raise their fears. It is more difficult for a politician to lead and dispel the myths created by nearly two decades of marijuana wars.

Marijuana policy is an example of Mr. Reagan being out of touch with reality. Unfortunately, there probably isn't much that we can do to educate him. Thus the Reagan era should be a lesson to us that our philosophy of individual freedom and small government is in the mainstream of traditional American political thought, but our generation is not yet in power. Until it is, we will probably be forced to live with the irrational marijuana laws. ●

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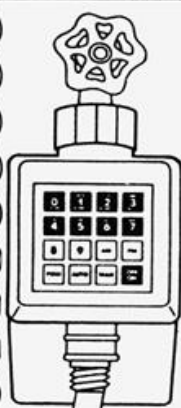
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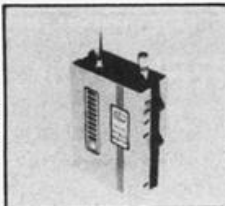
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LETTERS

continued from page 12



"666" (Jan. '86) was just a lot of mumbo-jumbo about horoscopes and Stephen King. Who is this Cookie Mueller anyway? Is he aware of our national debt? Can he read? A majority of our nation gets high, but as long as you represent the ideals of what I consider enemies of democracy, you are a liability to those who want marijuana legalized through the Constitutional process.

—Matthew Heines
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Ed—Cookie Mueller, who is a woman by the way, has every bit as much respect for the Constitution as President Reagan.

MELLOW OUT, H.T.

I was very disappointed with your article on abortion (Feb. '86). I usually enjoy HIGH TIMES' insightful political opinions, but maybe you should stick to marijuana legalization. Otherwise you might get a reputation for being as narrow-minded (from the other end of the scale) as Jerry Falwell! I support legal abortion. However, I think women should be encouraged to opt for other solutions. I'm not a Reaganite and I'm certainly not a fundamentalist, but I believe there are two sides to every issue, especially one as delicate as abortion.

—A female subscriber
Baltimore, Maryland

EXTRACTOR WANTED

Would you please tell me where I can purchase an Isoextractor? I have written to the M.C.D.G. and my letter was returned. The ISO II that was sold by Thai-Power, Inc., and advertised in your magazine is the one I want, but I don't see the ad anymore.

—M. Sheridan
Waretown, New Jersey

Ed—Nobody has advertised hash-oil extractors since around 1980, when word got around that household implements do the job a lot cheaper and easier.

When will it ever end? The Puritans are kicking us more and more in the teeth. No, they don't actually lock us up, but they will not let us hold a job, go to school, or drive a car. Somehow we have got to fight back.

—C.P.
Columbia, South Carolina

POT TOASTIES

I wrote to the Q&A section of HIGH TIMES last year to find out if cooking marijuana prior to eating would destroy the THC. Then I moved down to North Carolina where I couldn't find any issues of the magazines. Can you answer my question?

—Hazel V. Beyer
Boone, North Carolina

Ed—Cooking ordinary commercial pot at moderate oven temperature, far from destroying THC, will increase its concentration in the plant matter somewhat. But this technique isn't recommended for top-grade seedless pot like sinsemilla, which already contains optimum THC content when it's sold. Sinsemilla would only be degraded by cooking.

COOKIE THE RED?

You have a responsibility to inform your readers on efforts to legalize marijuana. I assume this is the goal of HIGH TIMES. Although I enjoy articles on these matters, I resent the way you portray the Reagan administration as "satanic." Cookie Mueller's article on Reagan and

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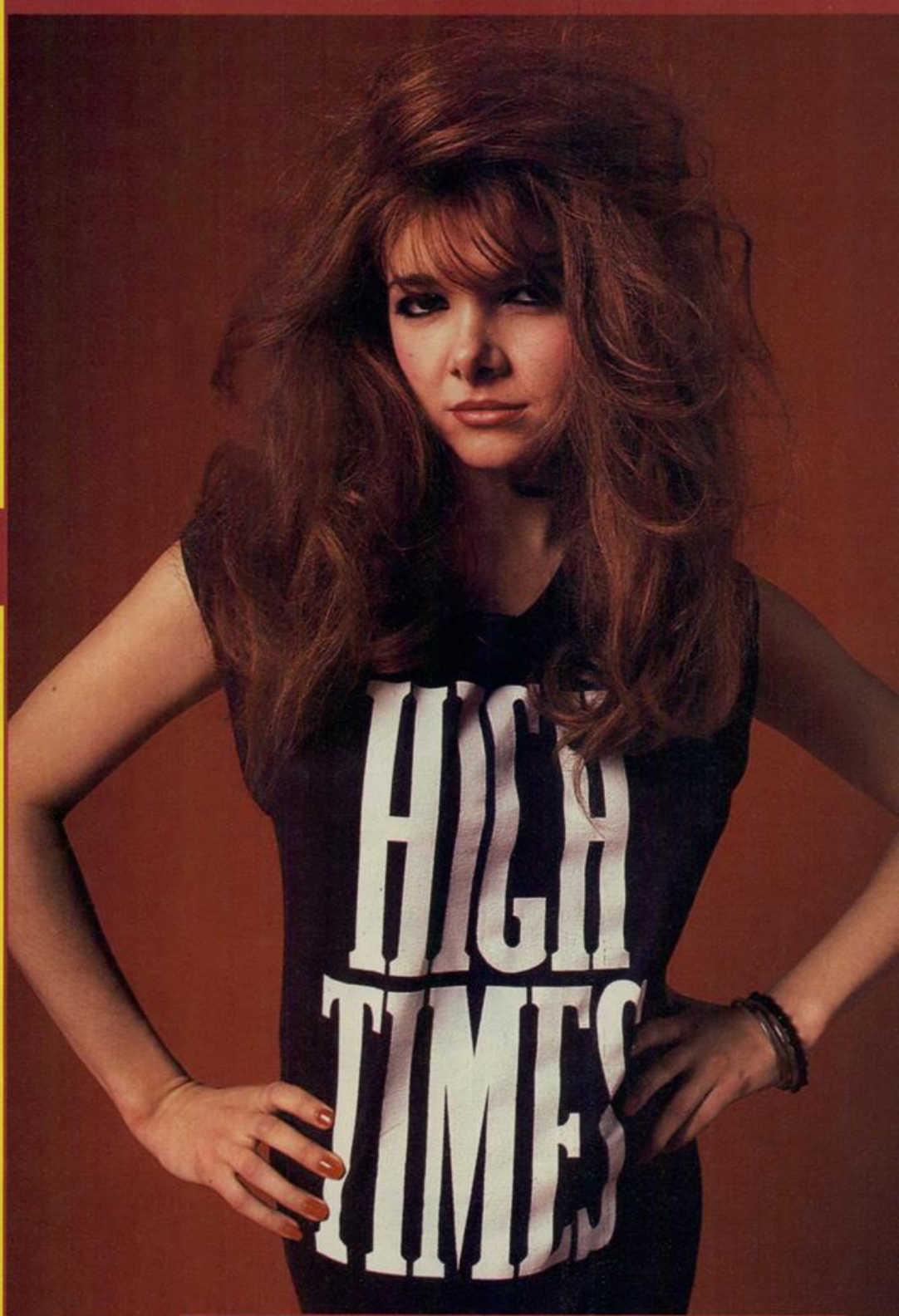
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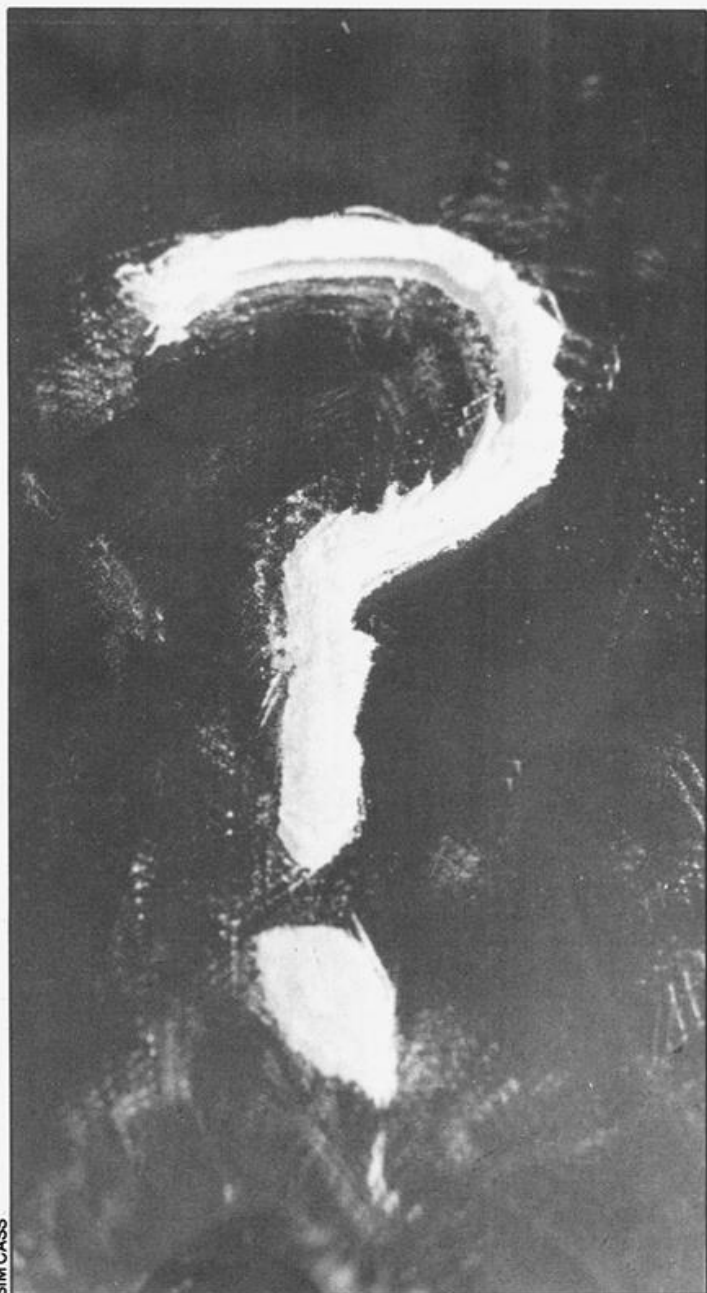
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HIGHWITNESS NEWS

JUNE '86

NO. 130



SIM CASS

PARALYZING "CHINA WHITE" NOW SOLD COAST TO COAST

By Charles Winston-Levy

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

These are the warning signs of MPTP, the street-drug contaminate that causes irreversible brain damage leading to paralysis with palsy in its victims:

- The drug causes an intense burning sensation in the vein when injected, and in the nose when it's snorted.
- The high is completely unlike either a heroin or cocaine high. An MPTP high is spacy, disorienting, and fuzzy, more like a hallucinogenic drug than smack or coke.
- After the high sets in, the user's mouth fills up with metallic-tasting saliva, and drooling occurs.
- Then in the course of preparing the drug itself

for injection or freebasing, it turns from a white or off-white color to a brown, gooey substance.

- When injected, it often crystallizes in the syringe.

These characteristic signs of MPTP have been established by the Atlanta Center for Disease Control, after interviews with hundreds of people on the West Coast who have accidentally taken MPTP over the last four years, since its first appearance on the streets around San Jose, California. Since then, MPTP has been sold from time to time in scores of other West Coast communities, the CDC has found, and seizures of MPTP labs by the Drug Enforcement Administration have occurred in numerous locations from San Diego to Texas. Now, according to the DEA and the CDC, MPTP has begun appearing on the streets in South Florida in samples of

drugs being sold deceptively as "China White" heroin and cocaine.

"Anyone who uses a powdered drug anywhere in the United States is now at risk of developing Parkinson's Disease," warned Dr. James Rut-



tenbur of the Atlanta CDC's epidemiology section, after interviewing several people in South Florida who had evidently snorted what they believed to be cocaine, but which turned out to be MPTP. Parkinson's Disease is a devastating brain-damage syndrome which ordinarily afflicts only elderly people, but which can be caused by exposure to minute traces of MPTP in badly-synthesized street dope. The symptoms of drug-induced Parkinson's do not begin to show up until days after the drug has been ingested: symptoms range from clumsiness and numbness at the toes and fingers, to permanently blurred vision, permanent stiffness of the arms and legs, and irreversible paralysis with shaking tremors.

MPTP (MethylPhenylTetrahydroPyridine) occurs as a contaminant chemical in hastily-synthesized batches of a street drug called MPPP (MethylPhenylPropionoxyPiperadine), which is generally sold on the street as a substitute for heroin. Whenever heroin is in short supply in any given area, bathtub chemists nowadays have taken to cooking up MPPP, to sell to addicts who need some sort of opiate to keep them from going into withdrawals until more real heroin becomes available. MPPP, a chemical relative of the opiate

H I G H W I T N E S S
N E W S

"Anyone who uses a powdered drug anywhere in the United States is now at risk of developing Parkinson's Disease."

—Dr. James Rutenbur,
Atlanta Center for
Disease

Demerol (meperidine), does not cause brain damage. However, when the chemist making MPPP uses hasty and shoddy techniques, MPTP is often formed as a contaminant. Just billionths of a gram of MPTP are sufficient to cause permanent, irreversible brain damage in human beings; and although the effects may not be conspicuous after low doses of the poison, the brain-cell loss will render the victim likely to eventually develop Parkinson's Disease over years to come.

The discovery that MPTP may also be sold on the streets as counterfeit cocaine emerged last spring, after field researchers for the Atlanta CDC began investigating reports of MPTP occurring on the streets in South Florida. Initially, in October of 1985, Broward County traffic police arrested a man in Fort Lauderdale for what appeared to be drunken driving. In his car, though, instead of booze they found a pill bottle labelled "MPPP" containing five capsules of some unknown white powder. The driver's story conflicted as

to whether he had bought the capsules on the street, or had been given them by dope dealers to chemically analyze for them. In any case, after the Broward County crime-lab technicians failed to identify the powder as any known drug, they turned it over to the DEA's Southeastern Regional Laboratory.

There, in January 1986, DEA chemist Wilmer Kiser determined that the "MPPP" capsules contained MPTP. Accordingly, Dr. Rutenbur's team of epidemiology investigators from the CDC began interviewing drug-rehabilitation patients and drug prisoners around the Fort Lauderdale and Miami areas, asking if they'd recently encountered any drug with MPTP's tell-tale characteristics: burning in the vein or nose, metallic saliva, spacey high and so on. When they encountered some Florida people who had obviously snorted MPTP up the nose, under the impression that they had scored some cocaine, the CDC's disease sleuths rang the alarm bell.

Fortuitously, the discovery that MPTP's prevalence on the street had finally spread from the West to the East Coast coincided almost exactly with the television presentation of a PBS documentary on the new ultra-toxin: "The Case of the



Frozen Addict," produced by Boston's WGBH-TV for its *Nova* series and broadcast nationwide. As the *Nova* program recounted, MPTP first appeared around San Jose four years ago, where it permanently crippled nearly a score of people ("Highwitness News," August 1983). Since then, the Atlanta CDC's investigators have interviewed over 200 drug users in the area who have evidently been exposed to MPTP, many of them showing signs of permanent limb stiffness, shaking tremor and blurred vision, symptoms of incipient Parkinson's Disease which don't ordinarily show up in victims of "idiopathic" parkinsonism until they're in their 70s and 80s.

As "The Case of the Frozen Addict" showed, victims of drug-induced Parkinson's can be treated quite effectively, at first, with the same antiparkinsonism drugs used on old people: L-Dopa, bromocryptine, and other "ergot alkaloids." However, victims of MPTP Parkinson's invariably develop severe adverse reactions to the treatment drugs themselves, which requires that the drugs be periodically suspended, leaving the victims in extended states of shaking paralysis.

When the CDC confirmed last year that MPTP was showing up on the streets everywhere from San Diego to Sacramento and possibly in Texas,

RICKY NELSON: Coke Rap Won't Let His Rep R.I.P.

by Kelly Simpson

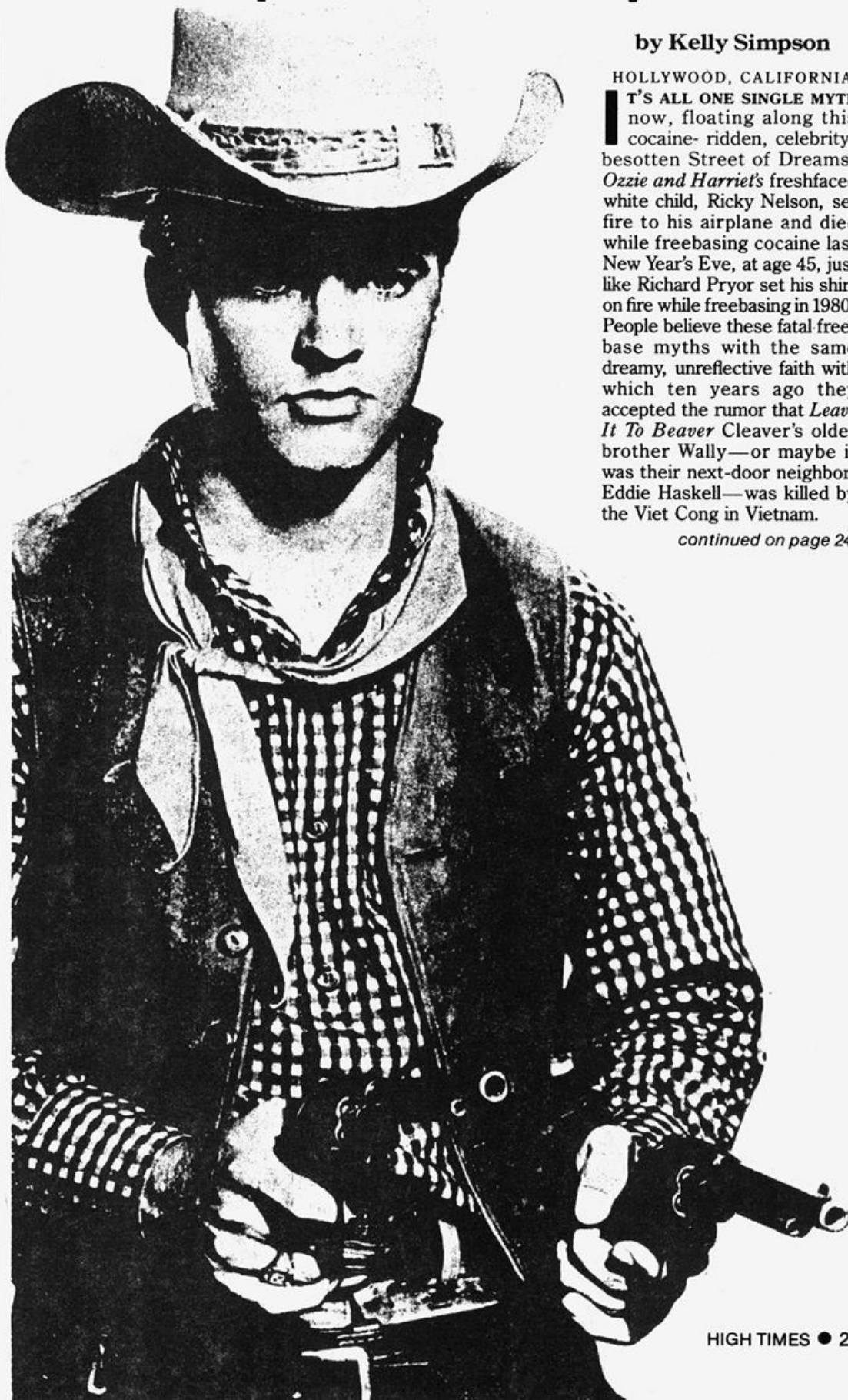
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
IT'S ALL ONE SINGLE MYTH now, floating along this cocaine-ridden, celebrity-besotten Street of Dreams. *Ozzie and Harriet's* freshfaced white child, Ricky Nelson, set fire to his airplane and died while freebasing cocaine last New Year's Eve, at age 45, just like Richard Pryor set his shirt on fire while freebasing in 1980. People believe these fatal-free-base myths with the same dreamy, unreflective faith with which ten years ago they accepted the rumor that *Leave It To Beaver* Cleaver's older brother Wally—or maybe it was their next-door neighbor, Eddie Haskell—was killed by the Viet Cong in Vietnam.

continued on page 24

Dr. Rutenbur advised *HIGH TIMES* that it appeared as though some dealers were foisting the stuff off on some unwary consumers as cocaine. ("High Witness News," Sept. 1985.) Another drug-abuse authority described how it might happen: It could be that MPTP, or MPPP, *smells* a lot like cocaine," he speculates, "So, although the high from MPTP, as it's described, shouldn't be easily mistaken for a cocaine high by the user, who knows? It's possible that the smell could psychologically *cue* them into a cocaine-type high, for the first few minutes after snorting, before the effects of the MPTP really set in: the mouthful of metallic spit, the spacey high, the blurred vision. And so they might think they just got some very peculiar cocaine, stuff that started *out* right and then went really bad."

Dr. James Woodford, an Atlanta forensic toxicologist who has consulted with the CDC extensively, has a simpler scenario for how cocaine-tooters might inadvertently get dosed with MPTP: "It might just be another peril of Belushi-Balls, cocaine mixed with heroin. Only in this case, maybe the dealer isn't mixing his coke with heroin, but with some M-Triple-P he scored from a bathtub chemist for lots less money. And maybe the chemist didn't cook the M-Triple-P up properly, so that there's some MPTP in the dose. How would the end user ever know, after he snorted it, whether it was heroin or M-Triple-P contaminated with MPTP?"

In any case, persons who have snorted, smoked or shot up mysterious white powders and then experienced the tell-tale "MPTP profile" of symptoms described above should consider getting themselves examined by a neurologist acquainted with the early signs of Parkinson's Disease. One of the brighter spots of recent research into MPTP and parkinsonism—as the *Nova* production related—has been the discovery that the progress of Parkinson's Disease can evidently be greatly slowed or halted entirely by treating patients with drugs which prevent the sort of nerve damage which MPTP inflicts in the brain. ●



Adler Berriman "Barry" Seal, the 45-year-old ex-Green Beret dope pilot whose snitch testimony was crucial to several of the Justice Department's biggest-ever international narcotics cases, was blown away like a Penny Arcade shooting-gallery duck last spring, after a Louisiana federal judge had sentenced him to perform six months "community service" in a Baton Rouge drug-treatment center. Adler was machine-gunned to death in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center in Baton Rouge by two men who appear to have been professional Colombian dope mafiosi—just days before the April 1986 issue of *HIGH TIMES* was due to appear, with a partial account of Seal's colorful confidential-informant career in it. ("Sandinistas, Vic-timizers or Victims?" by Joel Millman.)

Seal, by his own proud admission, had flown countless tons of cocaine from Colombia into the United States in the late '70s before falling to a federal conspiracy indictment in 1983, involving conspiracy to distribute bootleg Quaaludes. He pulled a ten-year sentence for that one, and opted to work it off by doing confidential-informant undercover work for the Drug Enforcement Administration. In this role, he was possibly the most hard working and foolhardy spook-snitch who ever orchestrated "conspiracies" for any dope agency. Among other things, he functioned as a dope pilot for mobsters close to the Big Three of Caribbean dope-smuggling: Pablo Escobar, Juan Ochoa and Carlos Lehder, who became so powerful in Colombia with dope money that the Bogota government chased them out of the country in early 1985. After the Big Three resumed operations as usual out of Panama, Barry Seal continued flying dope planes for their outfit in his role as a DEA superspook, and at one point, claimed to have photographed the deputy defense minister of Nicaragua in personal company with Juan Escobar himself and a

WHO KILLED BARRY SEAL?

An Investigative Obituary



big load of cocaine at a bush strip somewhere around Managua. The Reagan Administration picked up on Seal's stories in a big way, and has relied on them as the primary "evidence" supporting their charges that the left-wing Sandinistas run most of the dope in the Caribbean in exchange for gun money.

Subsequently, Seal was the snitch who enticed the prime minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Norman Saunders, to come to Miami to wash some imaginary cocaine money; when Saunders went to U.S. federal prison for conspiracy to traffic in dope, it was almost exclusively on the basis of ABSCAM-style videotapes

of Barry Seal suckering him into the imaginary deal.

From Sole Witness...

Finally last winter, Juan Ochoa of the Big Three got himself busted in Spain on a false-identification charge. As soon as he was in jail there, the United States brought extradition proceedings against Escobar, swearing they could prove that he was involved in running numerous Nicaraguan cocaine labs which pump coke into the U.S. Their witness against Ochoa, of course, was none other than Barry Seal.

So Seal was a very important individual for the U.S. Government last spring. Unfortunately, during all the time he'd been snitching for the DEA, Seal had not resisted the temptation to use his privileged status to engage in criminal enormities behind the dope agency's back. In 1984 he got himself convicted in Louisiana on charges involving 200 kilos of cocaine and a list of money laundering charges; and although the feds did their best to mitigate the wrath of the judge against Seal, feelings were obviously strained between the superspook and his federal handlers.

In fact, on one of his last missions to Nicaragua, Seal's DEA-supplied dope plane was shot up by the Sandinista army in Managua. After that mishap, Seal switched his allegiance to the Central Intelligence Agency which complicated matters infernally; the CIA is known to help "friendly" guerilla forces like the Nicaraguan Contras to move dope for gun money, although the DEA fiercely repudiates that sort of thing.

...To Clay Pigeon

Meanwhile, all this time, Seal was on trial in Baton Rouge for Quaaludes and moneywashing. The judge, Frank Polozola of the Middle District of Louisiana, ultimately fed Seal a very peculiar sentence. The sentence on the dope charge was suspended entirely, in view of Seal's terrific work for the feds', but for the moneywashing charge, Polozola fed Seal six months of "community service" at the Salvation Army dope-rehab center.

Thus, Seal was obliged to spend his nights, each weeknight, at the same public address, leaving it and entering it at precisely-determined times of day. The judge moreover forbade Seal to enlist any bodyguards for his protection, reasoning that if Seal had armed men around him, and those men and their guns were under his control, then he would necessarily be in "constructive custody of weapons"—a violation of parole.

Diane O'Connor, chief of the corrections facility at the Salvation Army, recalls that Barry Seal was a quite engaging detox-and-rehab client, amusing all the other inmates greatly with his jovial good nature. Still, his attitude was refractory, it seems: "I can't believe I'm here," she recalled (after his murder) him saying: "I don't understand the purpose of being here."

● Did the CIA bump off the DEA's most important dope trial witness? ●

Speculation abounds, naturally, in dope-trade and spook-craft circles everywhere as to the real purpose of making Barry Seal such a prime clay pigeon. Conspiracy buffs point out how Seal so nimbly switched his allegiance from the DEA to the CIA after the Managua airplane shootup. Some have suggested that Seal was *really* aligning himself with the CIA as a confidential informant so as to get a line into all the dope being run out of Central America by the Contras and other "liberation" groups armed and funded by the CIA; and that once he had compiled enough evidence of dope crime among the CIA's customers, he'd revert to the DEA and spill all the beans as their witness. "So maybe it was the CIA who had him bumped off, when they got wind of the plot," conspiracy freaks are speculating.

Tawdry Rubout?

This scenario is belied by the circumstances of Seal's assassination, however, which fit the precise profile of a formal South American mob execution. On the evening of the hit, Seal had pulled his bone-white Fleetwood Cadillac into the parking lot of the Salvation Army halfway house off Airline Highway, as usual, at 6 P.M. on the dot, as per the judge's instructions. Two dark-complexioned men who had obviously been waiting for six o'clock pulled out machineguns and riddled him to death right there in the front seat, then hopped into a grey Buick and tore off. Subsequently they switched cars to a red Buick some miles away, leaving the getaway vehicle on Maribel Street with a Mac-10 and an Uzi inside it. This is the classic m.o. of a Colombian dope rubout, not of a clandestine CIA spook snuff, nearly everyone agrees.

Suspicion that the rubout may have been merely staged by the CIA to *look* like a Colombian dope hit were ventilated within 12 hours of the slaying, when three Colombian nationals were taken into custody separately around the

Baton Rouge area. One was busted in his hotel, another at the airport, and another in a cab. The cab bust *was* peculiar, however. Suspected shooter Miguel Velez, 37, of Medellin in Colombia (site of the Big Three's operational headquarters there) was a passenger in a cab that was wrecked when it hit a deer at 2:30 A.M. the morning after the hit, on Interstate 59, after the cab had been the subject of an all-points-bulletin on police shortwave for some hours. Presumably the public's curiosity on this point will be satisfied at the trial of the three Colombians—unless they elect to plead guilty to murder charges in Louisiana, which is unlikely, and go silently to jail forever.

Of course, conspiracy freaks know no bounds to speculation. "It was the *judge* who got the guy killed," many will point out, reasonably enough: "He kissed Seal goodbye forever when he sent him to that public detox center, hung him out in the wind. The guy was lucky to get through the seven weeks he lived there before they offed him. So who's this *judge* in bed with?" Louisiana, they will point out, is almost certainly the single state in the nation with the highest volume of dope moving through it from South America, and most of the dope is simply never intercepted by Louisiana authorities.

However, a less provocative scenario is supported by statements of United States Attorney Stanford Bardwell, who prosecuted Seal's case—even though he and Seal had been friends back in high school together in Louisiana. Bardwell says that Seal was offered no end of opportunities to join the Federal Marshal's Witness-Protection Program, and live under an assumed name in inconspicuously modest circumstances somewhere far away from his beloved South. Seal could never have tolerated that, says Bardwell, and refused all such offers of protection: "He would have had to maintain a low profile and change his working habits, and I don't think he was willing to do that."

In "real" life, when he wasn't running dope or guns or whatever for U.S. security agencies, Seal ran a company that remodeled airplanes and sold them to businessmen—and probably to dope movers—for a very respectable profit. He was the sole source of income for numerous relatives, whom he supported in generous comfort. He was engaging, happy-go-lucky, and just generally an irresistible character—the best possible sort of personality for someone who acts out a rich fantasy life by suckering people into dope deals, and then turning them over to the police. All in all, one of the great American characters.

Now that he's been murdered, however, the United States Government has lost its prime witness against the alleged "doperunners" of Marxist Nicaragua, and—even more significant—a great deal of their case against the Big Three of Medellin, including Juan Ochoa, who is expected to be shifted from Spain to U.S. custody very shortly, to stand trial. All in all, it would really seem that the likeliest culprits behind the Barry Seal snuff were the Colombian dope movers. ●

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R.I.P.

continued from page 21



"The Board has no evidence to support that speculation," reported the National Traffic Safety Board of the Ricky Nelson fatal-freebase rumor, weeks after the rumor had galvanized the national media for the 15 minutes every once-famous teen idol is famous all over again after perishing with traces of cocaine in his or her body. The Traffic Safety board had found no evidence of freebase paraphernalia—no pipes, no blowtorches—in the remains of the plane that had caught on fire over Texas on New Year's Eve to kill Nelson, his fiancée, and five other members of Nelson's Stone Canyon Band. In fact, speculated the board, it was probably the faulty fuel lines and the ancient heating system in the World War II vintage DC-3 they were riding that set *itself* on fire.

Still, people here will remember forever that Ricky Nelson, the kid next door who grew up with every American over 30, and went on to respectably moderate fame and riches in sentimental rockability music and grade-B movies died when he set his airplane on fire while freebasing cocaine.

They can be forgiven for remembering it this way, since the press covered the fatal-freebase rumor with such steel trap avidity, over the two weeks before it was deflated by the feds. Legal papers from Nelson's 1981 divorce proceedings were excavated, with all the sordid dope charges leveled at him by his ex-wife Kristin with all their divorce-lawyer embroidery:

"Respondent has a severe drug problem. The children are

aware that Respondent constantly takes cocaine, Quaaludes and other drugs, and have expressed great anxiety and concern that they are unable to speak with him or do anything at all for him while he is under the influence of drugs."

This titillating trash served greatly to reinforce the public impression that Respondent Nelson must surely have set himself on fire, like Richard Pryor did in 1980, while smoking freebase cocaine, which involves volatile solvents like ether using a blowtorch. This was myth *blended* with myth, really, because Richard Pryor wasn't *making* freebase, using ether or anything else inflammable, when he caught fire; he was merely *smoking* it, he explained afterward, using a blowtorch to set it on fire, around some bottles of ultra-high-proof Jamaican rum, which exploded from the flame and ignited his polyester shirt.

Freebase, blowtorches, and ether, though: these became part of Ricky Nelson's final image, in the minds of everyone over 30 who had grown up with him. Many of these people have some peculiar ideas about freebase, as represented by this description of the process from the *Dallas Morning News* a couple days after the fatal crash:

"Freebasing is the process of suspending cocaine in ether, usually in a glass flask, then heating it. As the highly flammable ether evaporates, a potent cocaine residue remains, and is smoked."

This is a terrific recipe for sure disaster. There is no need to *heat* ether in the conversion of snort coke to freebase, and

in fact ether is not really needed at all; baking soda works just as well, and is non-explosive. If ether is used, the smoker is not going to get any usable freebase with it by following this recipe anyhow, because one also has to use a *base* in the conversion process.

All in all, considering the prevailing fascination the media has for all things concerning cocaine, and freebase especially, and considering their ox-brain ignorance of anything *real* having to do with the drug, legends like the Ricky Nelson fatal-freebase rumor are obviously inevitable, and certainly ineradicable.

Nevertheless, in the interest of informing our select readership of the truth of any celebrity drug rumor, *HIGH TIMES* probed this rumor to its source, and found—no *single* source! The Ricky Nelson fatal-freebase rumor invented *itself*, just as dreams invent themselves.

The facts in the papers were not awfully complicated. The Stone Canyon Band was traveling to a performance date in Texas aboard this ancient DC-3, old as Nelson himself, when it caught fire somewhere in the passenger section. The pilot and co-pilot, smelling smoke in the cabin, put it down on the nearest cow pasture and escaped, although Nelson and the six others in the fuselage were all dead before landing from smoke inhalation and flames. The bodies were taken to the Bowie County morgue, and then to the morgue in Dallas, nearly 200 miles away, and examined. At some point, a coroner's report was leaked to the press, attesting to the presence of some "unmetabolized cocaine" in Nelson's body, and this was reported by the Associated Press nearly two weeks after the crash itself.

The AP hacks, apparently mystified by the word "unmetabolized," assumed that Nelson must have been smoking freebase cocaine. Actually, the term "unmetabolized" merely signified that the cocaine had been taken so recently into the singer's body (by the nose, most likely) that his liver had not yet had time to break it all down to its metabolites, ecognine and meth-

ylecognine. Confused by this new word, however, the wire-service scribes obviously assumed that "unmetabolized" was some sort of technical term for "freebase."

Things were not made much clearer when, at the height of the five-day headline sensation over the fatal-freebase rumor, the Dallas County coroner's office solemnly confirmed that all seven of the bodies retrieved from the plane had contained "cocaine or alcohol" at the time of death. This business had become so maddening by now that a *HIGH TIMES* reporter called the office of the Dallas medical examiner to ask which bodies had contained which drug.

"That's not our report," a morgue assistant declared, even though she confirmed that the Dallas coroner *had* indeed told the press that day about finding cocaine and alcohol—and some Valium, too—among those bodies. Further than this, or clearer, he would not go, however, she stated. "The full report is with the Bowie County medical examiner, and we're not at liberty to report on it," she said.

"That's not our report," a morgue assistant at the Bowie County medical examiner's office declared when *HIGH TIMES* called there ten minutes later. "The Dallas County medical examiner's office did the report on those bodies, and we're not at liberty to comment on it."

And that's how the Ricky Nelson fatal-freebase myth was engendered: a murky leak from some coroner's office in either Dallas or Bowie County, was picked up by some local newshack somewhere, whose report got picked up by a wire-service reporter, who knew just enough about freebase cocaine to leave the world forever believing that Ricky Nelson set his plane on fire, just like Richard Pryor set his shirt on fire, while freebasing cocaine. The myth is irrefutable as long as the two county coroner's offices involved continue colluding to cover up for whichever one of them leaked the cocaine finding to the press in the first place. And we will all remember this myth for as long as we remember that Eddie Haskell died in 'Nam. Or was it Wally?

P

Q

&

A

● Every day, letters and phone calls pour into the HIGH TIMES offices, asking the same questions about the rising tide of urine testing. HIGH TIMES has published several articles about this ugly phenomenon in the past, and will continue to expose the cruel and unconstitutional practice as more and more horror stories about its abuse come to our attention. In the meantime, as a public service, HIGH TIMES will run a basic primer of information in this space every month.—The Editors

1. What do urine tests actually measure?

● Urine tests are designed to seek out the end-product metabolites of various drugs: tell-tale non-drug compounds which tend to show up in urine at some point after the drug has been ingested. In the case of marijuana, the tests look for a compound called 9-carboxy THC; in the case of cocaine, they look for *ecognine*.

2. How long does THC stay in the body? Cocaine?

● No one knows how long 9-carboxy THC stays in the body, potentially detectable by urine tests, after marijuana has been smoked. It doesn't really matter; experts agree that if a person smokes just one joint every weekend, there's a possibility that the person might be susceptible to showing "positive" for THC on a urine test given on any day of the following week. For cocaine, the tests are designed to show "positives" for up to three days after the drug has been taken. (The manufacturers estimate five days, but they lie.)

3. Does how much I smoke or ingest affect the test?

● In the case of marijuana, the critical factor is how *regularly* a person uses the drug; anyone who smokes more often than once or twice per week is susceptible to showing THC "positives," whether they smoke a lot or only a little. For cocaine, however, the size of the dose makes the difference; the smaller the doses, the less likely a "positive" result.

4. How can I spoil the test?

● Standard commercial urine tests—there are only two brands on the market—are typical "quick and dirty" immunoassay devices, necessarily calibrated to examine fluids with an acid-to-base ratio (pH factor) from 3:0 to 4:0. By raising or lowering the pH factor of your sample out of this range, you can simply and undetectably foil the tests. This can be done by dropping six grams or more of ordinary table salt into the urine-collection vial, along with the sample of your urine; alternatively, an even smaller amount of common household ammonia, Drano or whatever, will suffice. The urinalysis machine will simply fail to recognize the sample as urine, and will automatically give it a "drug-free" readout. *Important:* There is nothing a person can take *internally*, such as vinegar or vitamins or salt, which will foil a urinalysis test.

5. What can I do if I test positive but don't think I should have?

● You can get a lawyer to challenge the test for you in a court of law, by suing whomever may have made you take it. These tests do not fare well in court; several state courts have already banned the use of these tests on prisoners and corrections personnel, and labor-arbitration decisions have uniformly gone against employers who've used them to fire employees. The fact is, these tests are not sufficiently dependable to be used as grounds for taking adverse action against people, under any circumstances at all. If you get into any sort of trouble because of these unreliable devices, you should write NORML—Suite 640, 20001 S St. NW, Washington, DC 20009—and NORML can recommend a knowledgeable attorney for you.

6. Are urine tests legal? Who is allowed to administer them?

● There are no laws at all, federal or state, to regulate the use of these urinalysis tests. Even though they're even less reliable than lie-detector tests, and infinitely more invasive, the fact is that they've only been in production since 1980, and people are just now beginning to hear about them. No one gets interested in this urinalysis business until their own job is on the line, and that's why there are no laws governing the use of these gimmicks.

7. Can I be arrested if the test is positive?

● No. These tests are far too unreliable to be used as "evidence" in the courts of law. *Important:* When challenged with these factual data, promoters of drug-urinalysis procedures invariably respond that they're using some sort of "new test," fresh out on the market, which is "100-percent reliable." This is a lie every time. There are only two sorts of urine tests on the market: the EMIT Drugs-of-Abuse line from the Syva Company of Palo Alto, California, and the Roche Abusescreen system, from Roche Diagnostics of Nutley, New Jersey. If a urine-test administrator claims to be using some "new" test, you should challenge that person to give its brand name; that person has just lied to you, and that will be very important in any subsequent lawsuit.

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From.....

ARIZONA

"Marijuana law reform activists have been literally "sticking up" for their rights. A "Fight Back" sticker with a peel-off backing tells people to call "Silent Witness," the local rat-on-reefer hotline, and leave a *phony* tip about marijuana, anonymously of course. In an effort to change law enforcement priorities, the organizers of this campaign are critical of law enforcement officials who claim they don't have enough manpower to protect society from rapists and violent criminals, yet continue to spend time and money prosecuting the marijuana consumer."

Toll booths, subways, telephone poles, college campus bulletin boards, all are good places to post like-minded sticker messages to the general public, cheaply, quickly, extensively, effectively ...and anonymously. Do it!

KANSAS

"In '75, many people were saying weed would be legal in the next few years. Ten years later, we now seem to be in the midst of a conservative new morality. In

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this part of the country, dozens of people have been busted, supplies keep getting tighter and prices are going up. But even as the noose tightens, I don't hear any more protesting...I want to donate my talents. Please send info."

ACTIVATE YOURSELF.

If you have any ideas, talents, resources, contacts, etc. please let us know and put your plans into action. To win the war, no one can sit on the sidelines.

SOUTH CAROLINA

"Pot helps people that suffer from arthritis pain and stiffness. I know because I've been smoking pot for my arthritis and gotten more relief by smoking pot than when I was taking pain killers. The only thing I got from pain pills was addicted. I have a complete physical every year and my lungs, heart and brain are in good shape."

As the children of the '60's become the mentors of the '80's, we know that we are not the brain dead zombies the other side predicted we would be. We have fought for women's rights, gay rights, environmental

rights, world peace, and a nuclear free future. yet, the herb has yet to be set free. More of us must come out of the closet and speak positively of the benefits of using this herb—medically, mentally, spiritually and culturally.

KENTUCKY

"Here I sit in medium security prison on three primary drug felonies. I have to be locked up for ten years with no chance for parole. Victimless crime. A bank robber or killer has more of a chance than me. I hope the law changes soon." (Busted and Disgusted)

Busted and Disgusted, is only one of 425,000 people arrested on marijuana charges each year. The prisoners of war need to know that there are others out there fighting for release of those held hostage by the Reagan Administration's war on marijuana... (how many years will it take til we know that too many people have been tried?)

ILLINOIS

"Recently in Illinois and Indiana the military was used to destroy domestic crops. Since the majority of every tax dollar goes to military spending, we are all in effect financing this absurdity. This is crazy. Don't 50 million-plus tax payers have any representation? I don't want my children, should they choose to use cannabis, to have to fight the battle. Nor do I want them to spend their lives looking over their shoulders. Let's all work together to change this situation soon."

Enough said!

ACTION AGENDA

May

21 Propeace

Citizens action dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons are making a 3,235-mile, seven-month hike from the Los Angeles Coliseum to Washington, D.C. Thousands of Propeace marchers will travel the following route: May 5 Grand Junction, Colo.; May 21, Denver, Colo.; June 12, North Platte, Nebr.; July 4, Omaha, Nebr.; July 17, Des Moines, Iowa; August 14, Chicago, Ill.; August 22, South Bend, Ind. Propeace walkers, volunteers, donations of money and trucks are needed. For information, call 1-800-453-1234.

June

19-21 Annual NORML Convention

Legal conferences, exhibits, training sessions, seminars; leading speakers on the marijuana reform movement. For further info. contact NORML, 2001 S Street NW, Ste. 640, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 483-5500.

Oregon Rose Festival (1st Week)

Sporting events such as car, motorcycle, boat, dog & horse races. The famous Portland Rose Parade held on the last Sat. of the eventful week.

July

1-7 Annual Rainbow Gathering

in the Allegheny National Forest (Northwest Pennsylvania). Free and non-commercial—you are there to share. Come prepared to camp. For packet, write Rainbow Gathering, POB 5577, Eugene, Oregon 97405.

3-4 Rock Against Censorship Concert

Lincoln Memorial Mall. For information, call: (301) 777-9485, Washington, D.C.

4 Annual

High-Noon—Rally Against Reefer Madness (212) 533-5028. Lafayette Park, Washington, D.C.

REFORM REPORT

COURT RULINGS

MASSACHUSETTS: Joe Hutchins, a 41 year old sufferer of schlerderma, a skin disorder which causes hardening of the skin, has unsuccessfully tried to have a marijuana cultivation conviction overturned. According to Hutchins, who pleaded medical necessity, marijuana alleviates some of the symptoms of the disease, which includes difficulty in swallowing. Hutchins served 30 days of a one-year jail term, spent 14 days in a mental institution, and is on two years probation after being found guilty of cultivation and manufacture of marijuana. The next stop for Hutchins is the appellate courts. If you want to support Joe's efforts, send a donation to NORML The Hutchins Defense Fund, 2001 S ST. NW, Suite 640, Washington, D.C. 20009.

NEW JERSEY: A former Monmouth County Youth Center counselor, convicted of giving a marijuana cigarette to a 15 year old youth at the center, was sentenced to seven years in prison. Asst. Monmouth County prosecutor Robert Honecher said that by giving marijuana to a minor under his supervision, the counselor had committed a type of child abuse. The sentence is under appeal.

CALIFORNIA: A mandatory drug testing program for 200,000 railroad workers was approved by U.S. District Judge Charles Legge over union objections that the tests are illegal searches. The ruling is seen as a test of the government's power to order drug testing in regulated industries under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. The rules require a nine month suspension of an employee who tests positive for drugs or alcohol. If the regulations withstand appeal, they could be expanded to other industries. The FAA is thinking about airlines; the Commerce Department is thinking about truckers.

NEWS REVIEWS

● Bush takes on OMI. At a \$75,000 Republican fundraising dinner in Portland, Oregon, Vice President George Bush singled out the Oregon Marijuana Initiative for at-

tack. Noting what he called "the threat of drugs" and the growing menace of international drug conspiracies, he said; "I can't think of a bigger breath of fresh air to every drug smuggler on earth than the passage of this bill. It would signal that America is starting to weaken in the war on drugs. We must stand together against drugs in the same way we must stand together against terrorism. We must say no to marijuana, no to its growth, no to its possession—not just no to its sale. Anything less is a cop out." OMI supporters were quick to point out that drug smugglers have no interest in seeing the initiative passed, because the main effect of its passage would be that people would grow their own rather than turn to black market supply. By the way, Bush is scheduled to appear this fall on a guest episode of **Miami Vice**. ●

● **Jersey Gears Up.** The State Attorney General's office is forming a narcotics task force to step up investigations into illicit drug activity. As many as 65 investigators and lawyers could be assigned to the unit and some five million earmarked for it in the new state budget. ●

Reprim:

INDIANA: Anti-drug action groups are mobilizing a bill that would make it a *felony* to be in a paraphernalia store.

NEW JERSEY: A bill (s-683) has been introduced to the State Senate Committee on Law, Defense, and Public Safety which calls for minimum mandatory jail terms for drug distribution, while marijuana offenders are excluded from mandatory sentences, under this bill penalties for distribution of marijuana would increase the fine from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Current N.J. law calls for a 6 month sentence, but this would not be mandatory. Yet.

MINNESOTA: With great fanfare and state wide publicity, a bill was introduced to tax drug dealers so they could be jailed for tax evasion, a la Al Capone. Despite opposition to the bill by Minnesota reform activists, the media neglected to report their dessionion, and the bill was maneuvered through committee, another cleverly orchestrated anti-drug PR campaign.

EDUCATION — OR PROPAGANDA

Federal:

Congress is becoming more and more concerned about drug/alcohol matters as members see these as issues of primary concern to their constituents. Since January, over 300 bills dealing with narcotics and narcotic control have been introduced. One of the areas attracting the attention of the Congress is drug/alcohol education.

H.R. 1242, introduced by Rep. Bennett (D-FL) authorizes the Secretary of Education to establish a "Comprehensive Substance Abuse Education Program to assist school districts in the U.S. in establishing and improving substance abuse programs for elementary and secondary school."

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Decrim:

IOWA: A bill has been introduced to the Judiciary Committee that would reduce possession of marijuana from a serious to a simple misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of \$100 fine and 30 days in jail. Current law calls for a six month sentence and a \$2500 fine.

MARYLAND: A bill which would outlaw random urine testing by employers has been introduced in the Maryland Senate by the Maryland ACLU. A similar bill is being introduced in the Oregon legislature.

Illinois: The City Council of Hickory Hills voted to decriminalize the possession of marijuana last November. This suburb of Chicago, population 15,000, is the first city in Illinois to enact decriminalization. Under the new legislation, possession of 20 grams or less carries no criminal record and a fine from \$25 to \$150. Five members of the city council voted in favor of the legislation, with one member abstaining because he felt the new law was still too severe. Reasons cited for the change included an over-burdened court system and an overworked police force.

WISCONSIN: An ordinance making possession of an ounce or less of marijuana a municipal violation with a mandatory \$100 to \$500 fine was passed by the Milwaukee Common Council by a vote of ten to six. Unfortunately, Mayor Maier vetoed the ordinance, claiming he opposed any reduction in the severity of punishment for illegal drug use. The bill did have some drawbacks. While the severity of punishments would have been legally decreased, under the current law most judges in Milwaukee County dismiss charges of possession of small amounts of marijuana upon payment of a \$50 fine. This usually results in no criminal record for the defendant. So the defeated bill actually would have increased penalties.

MISSOURI: Boos and hisses to the PFDFY people in Columbia, Missouri, who led the successful defeat of a local decrim ordinance. Pro-decrim activists plan to file the initiative again.

For a copy of "The Marijuana Laws-State and Federal Penalties," send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Reform Report/
Activist News
PO Box 20525
New York, NY 10025

TRANS-HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

Atlanta, Ga.	Marijuana,	oz	125	Columbus, Ohio	local sinsemilla,	oz	75-100	Jackson, Miss.	Local sinse,	oz	120
	North Ga. sinse,				"medium high"	lb	700-1000		primo smoke	lb	1200-1300
	primos, "Farm Aid"				Jamaican buds,	oz	120		Homegrown, lotsa buds, "ok"	oz	130
	Hash, was plentiful	gm	10		"superbo primo"	lb	1300		Peyote, large buttons	one	12
	Mushrooms, when avail.		6-8		Jamaican com-mersh, "o.k."	lb	750		Acid, purple m-d Coke, at least 50% pure, hard to find valium, floating around	one	6
	LSD, pink blotter, insatiable demand, quan. & qual. GOOD	1000 one	1000 5		anonymous indica, "seed city"	oz	125			gm	110
	white blotter	one	5		Colombian brown, "sleepy high"	oz	50-80	Jackson, Ohio	Jackson Co. pure Indicas, "ass-stompin"	1/4-oz	50
	Cocaine, 80 + % Bogota Mule Train, Columbian Mafia, "they're here"	oz	16-1800		Moroccan hash, "fair"	gm	8		Vinton Co. Skunk "Great high"	1/4-oz	45
	Cocaine, 80 + , dangerous scene, Dixie Mafia, power struggles	oz	1800		mushrooms, "about a 6"	gm	5		Sinse Buds, "seedy?" average	1/4-oz	600
	MDMA, "XTC" pure, white powder, "Transcendental Medication!"	1/8-oz	250		LSD, dolphin blotter	one	4-6		Hash, black Ludes, big 714s	oz	125
Baton Rouge, La.	Methamphetamine HCL, L.A.X.?	gm	80	Fairfield, Conn.	LSD, cartoon blotter, "good stuff"	one	275		Acid, blotter	one	5
	good, pure ride, Quaaludes, questionable origin & content, most likely "valley ludes"	one	5		speed, "rare, in demand"	one	6-8		Coke, 93%	gm	130
	Texas commercial weed, "plentiful"	oz	100		coke, "same old stomped-on shit"	gm	90	Kansas City, Mo.	"Not bad"	oz	2000
	cocaine, "only 5 hours from Florida"	oz	1400-1800		cocaine, commuter bazaar, "all kinds, too much cut"	gm	100		homegrown, red-haired green skunk buds from Texas, "the best"	1/4-lb.	120-160
	usually 70%-80%, pretty good soft rocks	gm	100		Marijuana, average brown, sinse	3 1/2-gm	300		Mexican brown, lots of trash	oz	400-500
	LSD, clean strong hits from S.F.	1000	1500		average green Jamaican	oz	120		"Ozark brown," few seeds/stems, "it's everywhere"	lb	100-120
	"no speed"	one	5	Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.	Good Bud	oz	1200-1300		Afghani black, "light-headed"	1/4-oz	1200-1400
	mushrooms, grown with skill by chem. engineer	oz	80		Gainesville Killer	lb	180-200		opium, "strong"	lb	60-80
	MDMA, from Austin, TX	one	20-25		Mescaline, purple & red, "Reds Good"	one	1500-1700		acid, pyramids, "good trip"	gm	800-950
	valium, 10 mg	one	1300		Cocaine, mostly pure, nice looking	gm	5		"mushrooms," anonymous	one	15-17.50
	hard to come by	100	80-100	Grosse Pointe, Mi.	No. Mich sinse "good", dark green	oz	1200		coke, not under 50%, or over 70%	gm	50-60
Beverly Hills, Ca.	Sativa, small buds, heavy resin	qt.lb	650		Homegrown buds, "very poor", bright green, stringy	oz	25	Kingston, R.I.	MDMA, "real thing, very scarce"	3 1/2-gm	200-300
	Indica, large buds, sticky, primo	oz	220		"Nam" skunk, "outstanding"	1/4-oz	20-35		hashish, "black like fudge"	gm	15-25
	Hash, blonde leb, sucks, "not like good old days"	gm	10		Dense Thai slabs "heavy buzz"	1/8-oz	70	Knoxville, Tenn.	Colombian, "for the naive smoker"	oz	5-8
	Acid, blots, "Black Doves", clean, 80 mcg.	one	2.50		Coke, "really good" almond-sized rocks, yellow core	5 1/2-gm	30		Jamaican buds, "Thank you, Jah"	oz	120
	Cocaine, "good & plenty, but who needs it?"	gm	150		Mesc., purple micro-dot, "intense buzz"	one	315-350		LSD, "strong, but rough on jaws"	one	90
Charlotte, N.C.	"Carolina kickass," potent buds	oz	180-190		yellow "sunshine" no major hallucinations	one	2-3	La Follette, Tenn.	LSD, moon & star, "white witchcraft"	one	5
	"grow room sinse," rarest buds	oz	120-140		Acid, very hard to get, white micro-dot, no blotters	1/4-oz	4-5		Mex. pseudo	oz	3-5
	"Oaxacan/Afghi hybrid" from N.M.	oz	100-130		shrooms, freeze-dried, "electrical"	one	3-5		sinse bud, varies "great to wonderful"	lb	70-90
	Jamaican, "varies... comes and goes"	oz	60-70	Honolulu, Hw.	Pakalolo (Hawaiian sinsemilla)	1/2-gm	35		Cocaine, "bullshit" all cut	gm	825-900
	"Lumbo dirtweed," poor to fair	lb	50-70		Prices increase 50%-200% when exported. Main exports: Kona gold, Hilo high, Puna buds, Waimea Wipeout	3-gms	20		valium, "something to do"	one	80-120
Chico, Cal.	green skunkbud, incapacitator	1/4-oz	40		Afghani mango hash	1/2-oz	35.00	Lakewood, Ohio	Ludes, "Bathroom made"	one	800-1000
	"polio weed"	lb	1800-2000		prairie sinsemilla, none too bad, plenty good	oz	100		skunk buds sinsemilla, "red-haired"	1/4-oz	2.50-5
	mushrooms, "blue-cap"	1/4-oz	35		Colombo/Mex mediocrities	1/2-lb	230		"very rare"	gm	40
	coca, "cola"	gm	85		hash, black, "good buzz"	oz	55-65		acid, "tropical, primo"	one	100-120
	crank, maybe croak	oz	900		hash, blond, heavenly	gm	180-200		acid, "striped blotter"	one	5-10
Cleveland, Ohio	Fresh, sticky Jamaican Bricks	lb	1150		LSD, microdot	one	10	Las Vegas, Nev.	coke, low-grade California sinse	gm	5
	clean, long-lasting	10lbs	900-1000		coke, "pure? ha! treadmill"	gm	145		crystal meth, for fireballs	oz	4
	Jamaican Hash Oil, plentiful, deves-tating, smooth	gm	5-7	Indianapolis, Ind.	crank, "excellent"	gm	145-150		Local sinse "fair"	oz	100
	all day sucker	oz	100-125		quaaludes, boot-legged blotto	one	3.50		X or MDMA	one	200-250
	Toots-Footpowder/ everywhere,	gm	1280			one	95-110		Coke "50" codeine, "why's it here?"	gm	1600-1900
	20-30%	oz	1900-2150			one	75	Lynchburg, Va.	speed, "late night" pep-pills, "millions"	one	50-90
						one	275		Chuck and James Revenge Weed	oz	90
									Columbian, "stems and seeds you don't need"	lb	25-.50
									Mex sinse, "stone free"	oz	45
											60
											550

City	Product	Weight	Price
McMinnville, Tenn.	"kickass red-hair sinse," no s&s acid, paper moons, purple micro's qualudes,	1/4-oz oz one	25-30 120-160 5
	"commercial" coke, "very rare and impure"	one gm	4-5 90
Morgantown, W. Va.	Valium, last resort local sinse buds, "lung-tingling" leftover leaves	one oz	1.50-2.50 120
	Mexican seedy, "generic smoke"	oz 1/4-oz	40 25
	Colombo seedy, brown blahs	oz	80
	hash, "ass-kickin'"	gm	6-8
New Brunswick, N.J.	Humboldt Co. sinse, "skunky, dense"	oz lb	200 2300
	Thai weed, best on Rutgers campus	oz lb	175 1800-1200
	Jam sinse, "pungent and heavy"	oz lb	150 1400-1600
	Mex, hi-grade bud, fluffy, "potent"	lb oz	130-150 1300-1500
	Mex, pseudo-sinse, "big seller"	lb	80-120 1100-1300
	commercial weed, "scarce, old, dry"	oz lb	75 650
	hash, blond Leb, pressed slabs	1/4-lb	400
	shrooms, blue psilocybin blotches	oz 1/4-lb	100-140 375
	LSD, speedy old blotters	one 5	3.50 10
	coke, "pretty good quality, but expensive"	gm oz	100 300
Newburgh, N.Y.	coke, "good flake," tootin' burghers	gm oz	120 1800
New York City	Hawaiian buds, watch for fakes	oz lb	225-275 2400-3000
	California sinse, it's here & now	oz lb	200-250 2200-2500
	West Coast sinse, skunks & kushes	oz lb	200-235 2000-2400
	New Mexican high-altitude, mystic purple buds	1/4-oz 1/2-oz	60 110
	Mexican greens, flowing in again	oz lb	100 1000-1400
	Afghani black hash	lb	1100-1500
	shrooms, Psilocybe cubensis, powerful body glow	oz 1/4-lb 1/2-lb	100 300 550
	'ludes, threatening to make comeback	one	15
Norwich, Conn.	skunk buds, "sticky & stoney"	oz oz	500 120
	local sinse, 3rd-generation	oz	80
	Thai buds	oz	200
Oak Lawn, Ill.	coke, "nice rocks"	gm	100-120
	Green "sinse"	oz	120-140
	pricey, "worth(?) it"	oz	90
	"Hawaiian" in can	oz	90
	"doubtful"	oz	90
	LSD, white unicorn	one	2.50
Oshkosh, Wis.	"mellow"	one	2.50
	Indica sinse, "red hairs"	oz 1/4-lb	150-200 600-650
	Hawaiian sinse	1/2-oz	35-40
	"maui"	oz	160-200
	Thai sticks, "w/opiom"	oz	350-450
	P. Cubensis	oz	200
	"freeze-dried"	oz	200
	LSD: Black Pyramid "tripendicular"	one	6
	Pegasus "giggle trip"	100 one	450-500 5
	Blotter "moon & star"	100 one	450 3
	Red Ant "take a space trip"	one	6
	Coke "35-45"	100 gm	450-500 100-125
Philadelphia, Pa.	Hawaiian "sense," of good repute	oz 1/4-lb	100 300
	domestic commersh, dry, harsh,	1/4-oz oz	12-15 40
	best avoided	1/4-lb	110
	black hash, unpedigreed, but "magical"	gm 1/4-oz	10 35-40
	blotter acid, "380 mcg. + DMT, a good 12-hr. buzz"	oz one	120 3
	mushrooms, "locally grown—fine!"	gm 1/4-oz	10 110
	meth, "rocket fuel"	oz	45-55
	rocks, white noise	1/4-oz	125
Raleigh, NC	Sinse, homegrown good green buds	1/4-oz oz lb	35 105 1100-1500
	Hash, greasy black "it sucks"	gm	5
	Mushrooms, P. Cubensis, not plentiful	gm 1/4-oz	5-7 30-35
	LSD: various blots	oz	100
	"Bill the Cat & Palm Tree" best	one	4
	Cocaine, avalanche, but very impure	gm	100
	Opium	1/4-oz	25
	oily, black, rare Humboldt skunk	1/4-oz	60
	"heavy crystals, big buds"	1/4-lb	240 650
	Mex garbage	1/4-oz	30
	Decent sinse	1/4-oz	40
	Hybrid Hawaiian purple and great	1/4-oz	60
	Black hash, soft	gm	10
	LSD: purple mic	one	5
	Shrooms, very very much in demand	1/4-oz	40
	Bolivian Rock	gm	100
	basing material	3 1/2-gm	275
	Crank, "same old shit"	1/4-gm	20
	Crystal myth "all over"	gm	100
Roseburg, Ore.	cannabis indica, green skunk	oz	180-210
	purple kush,	oz	200
	"killer skunk"	oz	200
	black hash, out of unknown region	gm oz	8-10 200
	acid, "Purple Road, 2 hits, U-Gone"	one	4
	coke, crystalline, "good deal"	1/4-gm oz	25 2000
St. Louis, Mo.	Missouri sinse, "best there is"	oz	100
	Colombo, "nice scent," uplifting	oz	100
	brown commersh, heavy headache	oz	80
	homegrown mersh, "4-joint buzz"	oz	60
	hash, rare mushrooms,	oz gm	120 6
	"intense trip"	oz	110
	acid, "4-way red pane, the best"	one 100	14 250
	acid, white blotter, "not that good"	one 100	5 100
	acid, purple micro, "rare, but good"	one 100	5 150
	cocaine, too much, "too expensive"	gm oz	150 1500
	"XTC" (MDMA), "the best"	one 100	10 350
San Francisco	No. Calif. sinse, semilla tops	oz lb	150-200 1800-2200
	Mexican, low-octane sinse	oz lb	75-100 600-800

ABUSE FOLIO

Medical advice by David Smith, M.D.

Written by David E. Smith and Rick Seymour of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic.

The authors do not advocate the use of any psychoactive substances

LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE

AKA

● LSD, LSD-25, acid, blotter acid, windowpane.

CHARGES

● LSD has been accused of possessing awesome powers to make people do things they would not normally do, such as stare at the sun until blind, step out windows and in front of speeding trucks, or commit mass murder. LSD is said to cause madness, disorientation and unpleasant hallucinations. Recent reports state that the drug can be absorbed through the skin of the unwary, that it stays in the system for years and that its effects can recur at any time.¹ Such statements are not based on scientific fact and only serve to confuse the public about LSD.

NATURE AND USE

● LSD is a synthetic psychoactive drug derived from natural ergot alkaloids, which are produced by the ergot fungus growing on rye grain. LSD was first synthesized in 1938, but its effects were not discovered until 1943, when the compound was accidentally ingested by Dr. Albert Hofmann, a chemist for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals. LSD is so powerful that dosages are measured in micrograms rather than milligrams.

During the '60s and early '70s dosages of several hundred micrograms were the median. Users took LSD as a means to "consciousness expansion" and "cosmic liberation." In recent years, a standard dose has been 50 to 75 micrograms, taken recreationally for its euphoric effects. However, there are reports that doses in some areas have begun to climb back over 100 micrograms.² Typically, LSD is ingested orally. A tiny measured dose can be soaked into any pill or capsule, mixed into a thin gel and cut into small units (windowpane) or placed in series on pieces of paper (blotter acid). The onset of effects can range from 15 minutes to an hour.

HAZARDS AND LIABILITIES

● The hazards and liabilities of LSD can be divided into acute effects and chronic aftereffects.

Acute Effects

The acute effects occur during the acid experience and are commonly known as "bad trips." These can include anxiety, fear over loss of control, paranoia, delusions of persecution or of grandeur. Some people on LSD show decided changes in cognition and demonstrate poor judgment—"being God, but tripping over the furniture." Susceptibility to bad trips is not necessarily dose related, but does involve the experience, maturity and personality of the user. Smaller doses and widespread knowledge of how to handle them have greatly decreased the clinical incidence of bad LSD trips.³

Chronic Aftereffects

There are four recognized chronic aftereffects to LSD use: (1) prolonged psychotic reactions, (2) severe, life-threatening depression, (3) flashbacks and (4) exacerbation of pre-existing psychiatric illness.

It can be very dangerous for someone with a history of psychological difficulties or psychiatric illness to take LSD. The prolonged psychotic reactions have similarities to schizophrenia and occur most often with pre-psychotic personalities. These disturbances can be both severe and lengthy.

Flashbacks are transient, spontaneous recurrences of psychedelic drug experiences that take place after a period of normalcy. The period of normalcy is what distinguishes flashbacks from prolonged psychotic reactions. Subjective reactions to flashbacks can range from pleasure to terror and anxiety. Flashbacks occur during times of stress, relaxation or everyday activities; during intoxication by alcohol, barbiturates or marijuana; and during ingestion of antihistamines and during viral infections. No one is sure what causes them.

Despite long-standing myths about chromosomal damage, there is no evidence that LSD is retained in the body for extended periods. Although LSD use has

been connected with the perpetrators of some spectacular crimes (i.e., the "Manson family"), LSD itself does not appear to be a precipitating factor. Overdoses are not physically dangerous, nor is LSD habit or dependency-forming.^{3,4}

FIRST-AID PLUS

● Talkdowns of most acute LSD reactions can usually be accomplished without medication or hospitalization. Maintain a relaxed conversational tone. Avoid quick movements. Make the person comfortable, but don't impede freedom of movement. Let the person walk around, stand, lie down, smoke or whatever they'd like. This kind of activity may act to break the anxiety reaction. Keep the person from making any dangerous moves by gentle suggestion. Subdued lighting and sound, and restful surroundings help. Getting the person's mind off what's frightening about his experience and onto more positive aspects is critical. Physical contact can help; let intuition, empathy and self-confidence guide you. Flashbacks can be handled in the same manner.

Psychotic reactions, depression and exacerbations of psychiatric illness may call for hospitalization and the use of antipsychotic medication. In these cases, often long-term counseling and other treatment is necessary.^{4,5} ●

¹PRIDE . . . Parent Resources and Information on Drugs, Georgia State University, Atlanta, 1982.

²Dye, Christina A., Do It Now Foundation Information Specialist. Personal communication, May 1982.

³Smith, D.E., Seymour, R.B., "The dream becomes nightmare: adverse reactions to LSD: their nature and treatment." *LSD Revisited*. Sidney Cohen and Stanley Krippner, Eds.; Unity Press, Santa Cruz (in press).

⁴Whitfield, C.L., Smith, D.E., Seymour, R.B. *The Patient with Alcoholism and Other Drug Problems: a clinical approach for physicians and helping professionals*. Whitfield, C.L., Ed., Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1981.

⁵Smith, D.E. "Lysergic Acid Diethylamide: an historical perspective." *Journal of Psychedelic Drugs*, Vol. 1 (1), Summer, 1967.

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PUNK GENESIS

● For over 20 years, New York's Lower East Side has been a seedbed for bohemian culture, from beats to hippies, from punks to new wavers. In *Art After Midnight* (St. Martin's Press, published June '86), author Steven Hager traces the rise to power of the recent East Village art



ON THE BOWERY

stars. In the following excerpt, taken from Chapter 1, Hager outlines how this international phenomemon began in a small dingy club on the Bowery, CBGB's, where a young generation of artists and punk rockers came together to forge new styles in art, music and fashion. ●

BY STEVEN HAGER

● **TOM MILLER AND RICHARD LLOYD**, two aspiring, unemployed rock guitarists, were walking home through the East Village one afternoon in 1974 when they passed an anonymous bar on the corner of Bleecker and Bowery and decided to stop in for a drink. They entered a long, windowless room with a bar on one side, a stage on the other, and a pool table in the back. The walls were peeling; the floor was littered with broken glass. The bar stools were filled by winos.

Miller and Lloyd took an immediate interest in the stage, which didn't seem be in current use, even though it had a PA system. At the time it was difficult for struggling rock bands to find a place to perform. The Mercer Arts Center, a conglomerate of theaters and performance spaces that launched the New York Dolls and several other recent bands, had been condemned after a neighboring hotel collapsed. That left only Club 82, a hangout for transvestites and glitter bands located on Second Avenue and East Fourth Street, and Max's Kansas City, the original home of the Velvet Underground. The rock scene seemed to be dying and bands were getting desperate for new venues. Under the circumstances, even a seedy bar on Skid Row seemed appealing. Miller approached the bartender. "We're in a band," he said, "and we'd like to play here."

"What kind of music do you play?" asked the bartender.

"Well," said Miller, "whatta ya like?"

"Irish folk music."

"Yeah, we play that," lied Miller.

On the basis of this conversation, the band

Television got its second gig in New York and the owner of the bar, Hilly Kristal, decided to rename his establishment in the hope of attracting a more upscale clientele. A burly ex-farm boy from New Jersey, Kristal was unsure what sort of music he should feature, so he picked a name designed to cover a lot of territory: Country, Bluegrass, Blues and Other Music for Uplifting Gourmandizers. Later on, he mercifully shortened it to CBGB & OMFUG ●

NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE were coming down to the East Village in those days. Overrun by heroin addicts and drug dealers in the mid-sixties, the neighborhood was scarred by endless rows of abandoned tenement buildings—many of which have been torched, gutted, and converted into "shooting galleries" by addicts. The European immigrants and bohemians who had previously lent the community a cultured, Old World aura had been displaced by improvised blacks and Hispanics. It was a dangerous place for white kids from the suburbs to be hanging out, but it also had the cheapest apartments in the city—which made it a haven for starving rock musicians, many of whom began congregating at CBGB.

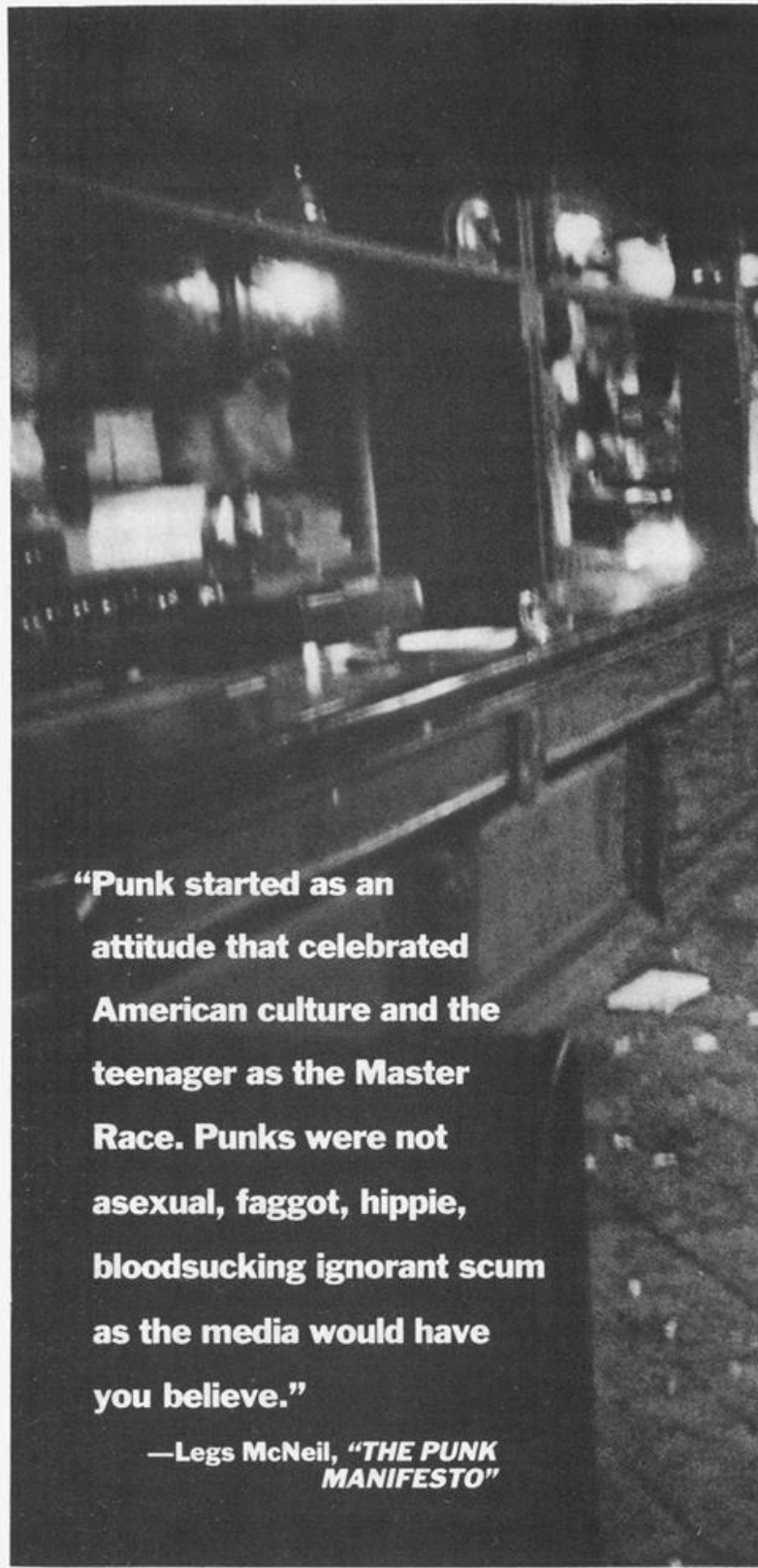
A year earlier, Miller had formed a group called the Neon Boys with a friend from high school named Richard Meyers, who was now Television's bass guitar player. Both had adopted stage names. Miller was calling himself "Verlaine," after a French symbolist poet, but Meyers wanted something a little more sinister and settled, on the last name "Hell."

Television began playing CBGB on a weekly basis and were soon joined at the club by several other bands, including Patti Smith, Blondie, and the Ramones. Although all four bands were distinctively different in sound and appearance, there were some connections between them. For example, Television opened each show with a rowdy rendition of "Fire Engine" by the 13th Floor Elevators, a psychedelic garage band from Texas whose popularity peaked around 1967. Hundreds of garage bands had emerged across the country in the mid-sixties, and even though they experienced only a fleeting moment of success, their amateur enthusiasm was exerting a strong influence on the music of the seventies. In 1971, Lenny Kaye, Patti Smith's lead guitarist and a former rock journalist with a masters degree in American history, had compiled an album for Elektra records that documented the emergence of this genre. Titled *NUGGETS*, Kaye's record included songs by the Seeds, the Standells, the Shadows of Night, and other seminal bands of the period.

"The garage bands were really naive and innocent and just wanted to be a part of rock 'n' roll so badly," says Kaye. "They were more at home practicing for a teen dance than going out on national tour." By the time *NUGGETS* appeared, bands had already begun self-consciously imitating the garage sound, which, in the true spirit of rock, rejected musical virtuosity in favor of raw teenage emotion and fuzzy guitar solos. (According to Kaye, the first of these revivalist groups was a California band called the Droogs. A few years later, another garage rival band called the Fleshtones formed in the East Village.) "A lot of the interest in garage bands grew out of the rock fanzine movement of the early seventies," says Kaye. "A whole cult developed around the groups." *CREEM* magazine, a leading promoter of the music, named it "punk rock" and identified the MC5, Iggy Pop, and the New York Dolls as true standard bearers of the garage sensibility.

It was, however, only the beginning for punk rock and the garage bands represented only one component of an emerging esthetic that worshipped the sleazy underbelly of American consumer culture. Fifties baby boomers who had grown up on a diet of comic books, *Mad Magazine*, science fiction novels, illegal drugs, Grade B horror films,

and Saturday morning cartoon shows suddenly decided they much preferred "The Gong Show" to "Masterpiece Theater," an attitude that had found early champions at *CREEM*, especially in writer Lester Bangs. However, the sensibility didn't fully mature until 1975, when a new magazine centered around the CBGB scene appeared, a magazine appropriately titled *PUNK*.



"Punk started as an attitude that celebrated American culture and the teenager as the Master Race. Punks were not asexual, faggot, hippie, bloodsucking ignorant scum as the media would have you believe."

—Legs McNeil, "THE PUNK MANIFESTO"

GODLISS

PUNK MAGAZINE was founded by a 22-year-old graduate of the School of Visual Arts (SVA) named John Holmstrom, who was born and raised in a typical middle-class suburb in Cheshire, Connecticut. Among Holmstrom's early influences were Spider-man comics, **CREEM**, and the rock band Alice Cooper. While at SVA, he studied with Harvey Kurtzman, one of the principal archi-

tects behind **MAD COMICS** (which later evolved into **MAD** magazine), and began drawing an autobiographical cartoon strip called "Joe."

"The East Village was really dead in those days," says Holmstrom. "The junkies had taken over. The talk on the street was that the city was going to tear down the whole



neighborhood.” After graduating, Holmstrom moved back to Cheshire, where he met Legs McNeil, an old friend from high school who convinced him to return to New York and start a magazine. They rented a storefront on 30th Street and Tenth Avenue and went to work. McNeil invented the magazine’s name and became its “resident punk.” “We were going to CBGB all through the summer of 1975 and after I saw the Ramones, I was convinced something was happening,” says Holmstrom.

Punk found its perfect incarnation in four guys from Queens, all in their early twenties, who dressed in black motorcycle jackets (a throwback to Marlon Brando’s look in *THE WILD ONE*), frayed jeans, and long, shaggy haircuts. Outspokenly anti-hippie, the band reveled in American trash culture and parodied right-wing sensibilities so effectively that many rock critics labeled them as fascists. Their music was short, fast and loud. Performances rarely lasted more than 20 minutes. Song lyrics discussed such matters as glue sniffing and the band’s favorite film *THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE*. Although dismissed as a one-joke band by many, the Ramones (along with Patti Smith and a few others) were consciously trying to resuscitate rock music, which was being virtually obliterated

by the success of such laid-back groups as the Eagles and Linda Ronstadt. Naturally, they considered the mechanical, manufactured sound of disco (the the most popular music in New York) as being even more offensive.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF PUNK appeared on January 1, 1976, with Lou Reed on the cover. Inside was an essay on Brando, who was acknowledged as the original punk. Page two contained a strident editorial: “Death to Disco Shit. Long live the Rock! Kill yourself. Jump off a fuckin’ cliff. Drive nails into your head. Become a robot and join the staff at Disneyland. O.D. Anything. Just don’t listen to discoshit. I’ve seen the canned crap take real live people and turn them into dogs! And vice versa. The epitome of all that’s wrong with Western civilization is disco.”

Although the first issue contained several standard interviews and essays, as well as a number of comic strips, the entire text, interviews and all, was lettered by hand, like a comic book. The Ramones were featured in the centerfold spread. “We love bubblegum [music] and hard rock, especially Elvis Presley,” said Tommy Ramone. “I like comic books,” added Dee Dee Ramone, “especially anything with swastikas in it, like Enemy Ace, which is



very hard to get." In order to better define his magazine's sensibility, Holmstrom began listing his important influences in the "Top 99," a parody of the record charts found in most rock magazines. The column was left open for just about anything, including current trends, TV shows, and movies, and readers were encouraged to mail in suggestions. The Ramones (Holmstrom's favorite band) held an unwavering grip on the number-one slot for several years, but other frequent entries included: Lester Bangs, Dead Boys, Patti Smith, Lennie Kaye's Nuggets, LSD, Sex, Batman, Blondie, Alan Suicide, vodka, "The Gong Show," Iggy Pop, Soupy Sales, "The Flintstones," The Three Stooges, Richard Hell, William Burroughs, and Budweiser.

Needless to say, *PUNK* magazine came as something of a shock to many East Village residents, a number of whom were aging hippies. "In the early days there were never more than 20 people at CBGB," recalls Roberta Bayley, who worked the door and later became a photographer for *PUNK* magazine. "The night Patti Smith played was the big night we made three hundred dollars, which seemed like a lot of money."

A groupie scene quickly developed at the club, and many of the arrivals were refugees from earlier scenes—Max's, Mercer Arts Center, Club 82. "We knew glitter wasn't what we were supposed to be doing anymore," says Animal X, a freelance clothes designer. "But most of us were still into glamour and a lot of girls were having this problem, to find something glamorous, but still tough. I used to wear a lot of leopard and fifties things. I never finished the edges and I'd tear them sometimes. I called it the just-been-raped look. I went out a couple of times with live cockroaches glued to my ears instead of earrings. We made things out of bones, animal heads. The idea was to shock people."

Several of the regulars, including Animal X and Anya Phillips, began go-go dancing and stripping at Times Square porno clubs to support their musician boyfriends. Phillips, a short, plump, Taiwanese girl, began dressing in black leather and studs, a look that had been pioneered by the Velvet Underground ten years earlier. S&M attire gradually became more popular at the club. "Anya gave the impression of being a frivolous person, says Bayley, "She dressed really outrageously and seemed like a hanger-on. But she began having

great tea parties for women at her apartment and I discovered she was really very talented at designing clothes."

"A lot of women didn't like Anya because she was manipulative," says Animal X. "Anya was a user, but she always gave something in return. She encouraged people to do things. I also remember she really liked LSD. One time after she took it, she crawled out of her apartment, crawled downstairs, hailed a cab, crawled into the cab and asked the driver to take her to Cuba."

In 1976, Richard Hell left Television and formed a group called the Heartbreakers with two former members of the New York Dolls. Within a few months, an enterprising clothing boutique owner from England named Malcolm McLaren (who had briefly managed the Dolls and had been hanging around CBGB) invited Hell to front a band he was forming. Hell declined the offer and McLaren returned to England and hired Johnny "Rotten" Lydon instead. The Heartbreakers broke up and Hell formed the Voidoids and wrote a song to sum up the spirit of the times. America had previously given birth to the lost, beat, and love generations and was now slipping into an economic depression. The country had never really recovered from losing its first war and having its President resign in disgrace. With the idealism of the sixties fading into the background, "The Blank Generation" struck Hell as an appropriate title for a punk rock anthem. "It was an assertion of the formless, inarticulate anger of ignored youth," says Hell, who adds: "I also wanted to get rich and get laid."

Amos Poe, an Israeli-born freelance photographer, became friends with Ivan Kral, a guitarist in the Patti Smith Group, and together they made a pair of 16mm films on life at CBGB. The first was called *Night Lunch* and the second, *The Blank Generation*, after Hell's song. Out of synch, often out-of-focus, poorly edited, and practically unintelligible, *The Blank Generation* nevertheless became a cult classic, probably because it was the only documentation available on the early days at the club. In July 1977, Tish and Snookie Bellamo, two sisters from the Bronx, opened *Manic Panic* on St. Marks Place, New York's first punk rock store. Within a few months, several other punk boutiques opened in the area.

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AYAHUASCA

In July, 1984, I traveled to Peru with two friends from New York, Chuck Dudell and Larry Lavalle. We spent three weeks in the river town of Requena unsuccessfully searching for a guide to take us into the Amazon jungle. However, it wasn't until we backtracked to Iquitos that we finally met a guide—Moises Torres Vienna.

He turned out to be a remarkable character. The former head of the Peruvian Jungle Forces Training School, Vienna had served as an instructor for the U.S. Special Jungle Forces. After helping map out the modern boundaries of Peru, he assisted several major river and jungle expeditions (most recently a Costeau expedition).

Moises offered to take us into the jungle and suggested we try the hallucinogenic ayahuasca. "It's the fastest way to get to know the jungle," he said.

TRIPPING IN AMAZONIA

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER GORMAN.



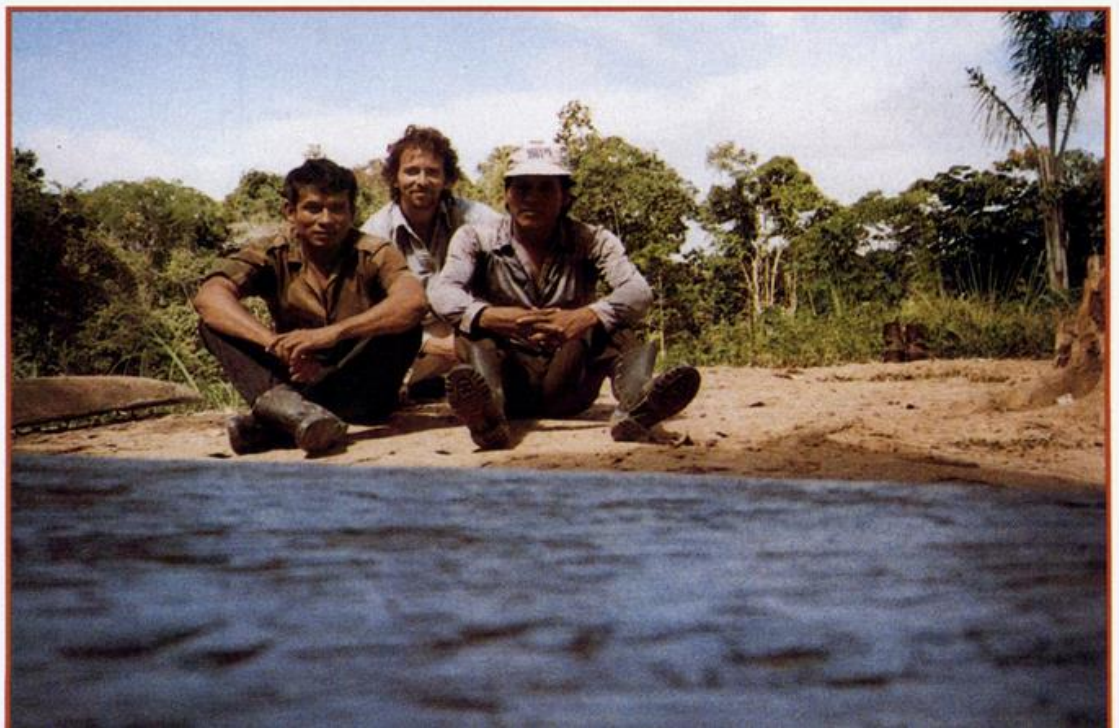


AYAHUASCA CEREMONY, SET ON FLOOR OF DR. JERENA'S HOME. TWO LEAF OBJECTS ARE MAROELLA FANS (SHAKERS); CANDLE, TYPICAL OF AMAZON REGION; IN BOTTLE IS AYAHUASCA, A DARK LIQUID.



Though all of us had taken hallucinogens, none of us were familiar with ayahuasca. Moises, who claimed no knowledge of drugs outside the jungle, doubted ayahuasca was like anything we'd taken before. "The properties of ayahuasca change from area to area in Amazonia," he said, "but many of the primary effects are the same. It will make the jungle your friend. Your night vision will be improved and it will make your journey easier. Should the drug be friendly with you, you will be permitted to visit any part of the world you wish to see." Unfortunately, the first brujo Moises brought us to refused to make the drug for us. She was a beautiful Shipibo woman, strong and old, but she told Moises we were dilittants who had no business using the drug at all, much less using her as our ayahuasca seer. There were many more worthy candidates for the drug than us, she said, and no amount of pleading on Moises' part would change her mind.

AUTHOR WITH MOISES' ASSISTANTS BEFORE HEADING UP AUCHYACO RIVER.





We traveled by dugout on a small river for two hours, made camp, and walked through the jungle to a second brujho's house—an unwall platform shack and smaller medicine hut built next to a clear stream.

Alphonse, the brujho, wasn't at home. His two wives were though, along with his children. Alphonse's main wife, a surprisingly fat woman for a jungle diet, told Moises it was too late in the day for preparing the drink. It was nearly noon and Alphonse was gathering manioke and roots and might not return for several hours. Why didn't we return in the morning when Alphonse would start it properly at 6:30 a.m.? Moises cajoled the woman, joked with her and finally demanded the drink be made. She begrudgingly agreed to pass the message along. Moises left her some presents in return: a bottle of *agua diente* (a local liquor), black tobacco cigarettes and some shotgun shells.

After hiking for perhaps an hour we suddenly found ourselves back at Alphonse's camp. This time the brujho was home. A strong, thick, bull of a man, Alphonse sat by a great cast iron pot, tending the fire beneath it. He wore raggedy clothing and an old painter's cap. His feet were bare, covered with small scars and thick calluses. He had a radiant smile which split his face in half and showed the only full set of teeth in Peru. The *ayahuasca* was being made, he said, but he feared it would not be at full strength, owing to the late hour at which it was started. Still, it would be more than strong enough for the gringos. He told us to return at eight that night.

Chuck, Larry and I just looked at each other. Our camp was miles from this place! How were we going to walk through the dense jungle at night when we found it nearly impassable during the day? Moises must have read our thoughts. "We can make a road of jungle torches from tree sap if you're afraid of the dark," he laughed.

That night we set off for Alphonse's. There was no moon and we had no lights except our flashlights. Since none of us was willing to ask Moises to make his jungle torches, we traveled in utter and still blackness. We walked carefully, crossing several single-log bridges flung over deep gorges. We managed to avoid boggy areas and didn't stick ourselves on the several types of spiny trees common to the area.

We arrived at Alphonse's home within an hour. He greeted us casually, and spoke almost exclusively to Moises. He said the *ayahuasca*, though weak, was prepared as best as possible under the circumstances. We walked from his medicine hut to his home and climbed a wooden ladder to his split-level bamboo platform. Both of his wives and his children were asleep under *mosquiteros* in hammocks.

The night bugs were awful and our repellents were worthless. Alphonse laughed and promised the *ayahuasca* would eliminate the bothersome insects. Moises reiterated what he had said earlier in the day: we would be sick and then we would be permitted to see whatever we wanted anywhere in the world for a few hours. Alphonse asked for an hour of silence. We sat quietly, listening to the occasional rustle of night animals searching for food and the cries of distant *tigrillos* and *ocelots*.

After the hour was up, Alphonse retreated to a corner of the house and returned with a small pot of dark liquid. He also brought a serving gourd, the *agua diente*, a bottle of camphor, a fan made of *maroella* leaves that had a percussive quality when shaken, and the

black tobacco cigarettes. He placed the objects in a cleared area of the platform and began chanting. We were told to form a circle around his things. All candles in the house were extinguished save one in the center of the circle.

Moises didn't join the circle. "Someone has to watch out for you guys," he said. It was unsettling to realize we were on our own, but he assured us this was the way it was done.

With the one remaining candle Alphonse lit a black tobacco cigarette and, still chanting, blew the smoke into the little pot of *ayahuasca*. He filled the gourd with the thick yellow-brown liquid (what was now a quart had been perhaps five gallons of liquid earlier in the cast-iron pot), chanted and passed the serving gourd to Chuck. Chuck emptied the gourd, made a face as though he'd just bitten into a sour fruit, then passed the gourd back to Alphonse. I suddenly found myself anxious. What did I know of these people anyway? What if they meant us harm? It wouldn't be difficult to make a few gringos disappear in the Amazon. In fact, it probably happened all the time. Or what if the drug should have a bad effect on me? Or Chuck or Larry did? What would we do?

By the time the gourd reached me I decided to forego my fears and trust my instincts. I raised it to my friends, wished them luck and drank. It tasted like burnt grapefruit juice that had been infused with dark, dank smoke. I almost choked.

Alphonse drank last and then passed the bottle of *agua diente* around. We were invited to drink a little and smoke cigarettes. Suddenly Alphonse leaned over the unwall platform and vomited. We'd been warned we would all vomit, but there was something unusual in the way Alphonse did it. He continued for several minutes, long past the time he could possibly have anything in his stomach. Instead of a dry heaving sound, his vomiting sounded like a rushing river washing through the jungle. Louder and louder it rushed, crashing against rocks and stones, boiling up like a rapids, louder and louder until the clarity of a mad spring seemed to pervade everything. I couldn't believe the sound was issuing from his stomach. It was a fantastic sound, moving, powerful, and thrilling to hear.

And then suddenly I realized I too was beginning to heave. I lunged for the side of the platform. My own sickness was more ordinary, just a tightening of the stomach muscles, as though I'd eaten bad food. When I finished, however, Alphonse was still not through. His rushing river was calming, though, the rumbling and boiling in his stomach settling. I looked to Moises, sure I'd imagined the sound. Moises, however, refused to confirm my thoughts. "He's a man of great power," said Moises. "He doesn't do anything in a small way." I looked to Chuck and Larry and they confirmed they too had heard the sound.

Through with being sick, Alphonse began chain smoking and had us do the same. We were instructed to make ourselves comfortable and took positions near one another on the platform. Only Moises stayed alert, assuring us he would maintain watch over our external world. "Just relax and don't try to see or do anything," he said. "Enjoy the beautiful night."

Alphonse began chanting and shaking the *maroella* leaves, creating a sound similar to that of a drummer's brush being scrapped across a snare drum. His chanting was haunting and untranslatable because of his use of obscure Spanish and local





words. There were even scattered Latin phrases, no doubt due to the missionaries who have combed the area for a hundred years. It was a clear and beautiful song, repetitious and eerie.

The night grew peaceful. The mosquitoes stopped bothering me. Suddenly a strange image appeared to me. I saw a bird flying over snow-capped mountains. It was a huge, brown bird with long, broad wings tipped with white. I was looking at the bird from a great distance when I suddenly felt myself merging with it. I saw from the bird's perspective, my sharp eyes picking out the most minute details of the landscape. I flew over a range of mountains, searching for something. While traveling at great speed, I looked down into a stream and saw fish moving slowly in shallow water. Although I was thousands of feet in the air, I could see sunlight glinting off individual scales on the blue and green fish. The colors were unimaginably rich. Suddenly I tipped off the face of the earth and plummeted toward the stream, nearly visionless. I don't remember any feelings of fear. I knew I was hungry and wanted a fish. I split the water with hardly a splash and in an instant was racing skyward again, the fish in my beak split in half. Unchewed, the pieces entered my stomach whole. I remember thinking I didn't generally eat food that way. Suddenly, however, the instant I thought of myself as apart from the bird, I was back in Alphonse's home, sitting on a platform with my friends. After realizing my flight was over, I became immensely sad. I tried to bring the image back but found nothing but blackness. No images, nothing. I wanted my new perspective back and was sure that if it returned, I wouldn't try to separate myself again.

But it was only when I let the image go that it would return. I would suddenly be flying, sometimes with the bird, sometimes just below it, looking up at the arrangement of the feathers on the wing tips, thinking that each feather moved individually to control our flight, each hair on each feather seemed to be controlled by an individual muscle. I'd never thought of birds as being that complicated before. Of course, each time I became introspective, I found myself back with my friends.

Twice I was able to ask the bird to take me somewhere. First, I wanted to see my wife, who was at that time living in California. Instantly, I was in her room, hovering on the ceiling. For a moment I watched her making love with someone and nausea came over me. However, the minute I felt jealous, the image was taken from me. The second image was of our apartment in New York, sublet to friends. My two friends were both reading, one in the living room, one in a small center room. They spoke occasionally. It wasn't the

most interesting of images, but it was clear and effortless. I noticed they were wearing clothes I'd never seen before. (Later, when I returned to New York, I saw they'd bought new shirts exactly like those I'd seen.)

At one point, when I thought the image of the bird was returning, I found myself not flying with my brown bird but looking at a large birch tree. Like all the images, I first saw the tree at the end of a darkened cone, as if viewed through a pair of binoculars. I traveled down the tunnel and stood in front of the tree. My vision zoomed in on one of the burls of the tree. I saw thousands of ants moving about on the burl. I saw them in such detail that I could count hairs on their bodies. When I looked across the rings of the burl, it was as if I was looking across a vast, cavernous plain.

There were other images too, but they were less clear. I would lose them quickly or they would merge with such speed that I wasn't able to focus on them.

And then I realized I heard talking and the others were saying they weren't having much effect from the drink. All they felt was ill. I protested but was overruled and we prepared to leave. Upon leaving the platform, I threw up effortlessly. We thank Alphonse and left his home, easily navigating the precipitous log bridges and dangerous jungle around us. We hardly used our lights. The others grumbled about "a waste of time," but I knew differently. All that night while I slept I flew with my bird, seeing cities and mountains and oceans, pulling fish from the sea for food and resting on small rocks when I grew tired.

The following morning Moises had us take a cold river wash, saying it was necessary after ayahuasca. I did as told and immersed myself in the freezing water.

The following year, early in August, I returned alone to Iquitos for a longer stay in the jungle. This time there was no discussion on whether to take the drug. "You must do it, Peter," said Moises. "We're going out into the jungle for two weeks and I need you to know it. You could get hurt. We won't be where it is well traveled. You need your night vision and you need the jungle to be friendly to you."

Moises, myself and two assistants took a motor launch from Herrera, a city on the Ucayali, up the Auchyaco to a small settlement. Moises said we would stay in the settlement for a few days for me to practice canoeing and for taking ayahuasca. "There is a good doctor here," he said. "He has an apprentice. He is very powerful."

We were permitted to use a small hut near the doctor's land, and Moises made arrangements for me to do ayahuasca the following night.



I saw a bird flying over
snow-crested mountains. I was looking at the bird
from a great distance when
I suddenly felt myself merging with it.

On the day of ayahuasca I knew not to eat past noon. All day I could hear the doctor and his apprentice pounding the ayahuasca vine and could see the smoke from their fire as they boiled the liquid. Though I was without the allies I'd had the first time I felt less anxious. I knew some of the effect of the drug and my anticipation for flying was high, but not my nervousness.

When it was time to take the short walk through the underbrush to the doctor's house, I nearly flew through the underbrush. The ceremony was taking place at the old doctor's home, Julio Jerena, a brujo from Pulcallpa. His apprentice, who had just finished his apprenticeship, was named Salis Navarro. He was strong and bright, with clear black eyes and a thick neck. The old doctor was lithe and strong. Even though he was in his seventies, I suspected he was very powerful, someone not to be taken lightly in a scuffle. His home was shared by three wives and several children. He had an old wife, a middle-aged wife, and a teenaged wife. Each had children, so they were woman of all ages living there. They seemed comfortable with the arrangement and the doctor made several jokes about his virility, claiming it an accident of birth, something his medicine hadn't been able to put a stop to.

There were seven of us present on the platform for the ceremony: the two doctors, Moises, his two assistants, myself and a man who was living at the doctor's house while the doctor cured his snake wound. The women remained out-of-sight. (Although women I know claimed to have taken ayahuasca, sometimes as a coming-of-age ritual, none were present at either of the ceremonies I attended.) One of Doctor Jerena's dogs climbed about on the platform and walked around restlessly. It was inordinately hot and the bugs were moving in swarms. I looked forward to the insect-repellent effect of the ayahuasca.

Doctor Jerena said there were only two of us besides himself and Salis Navarro who were taking ayahuasca. Moises and the two assistants and another man who arrived after us were there to see that no harm came to us should our visions drive us off into the river or jungle.

The old man who joined us told how the doctor had performed an operation on his stomach recently. He showed me a scarless stomach to prove it. He said the doctor had used a knife to cut him open, had extracted his stomach, washed it in waters and replaced it, and then sewn up the incision. I asked him when the operation had taken place, given that I could see no scar. He answered it has been performed two days ago. "All Doctor Jerena's scars heal quickly," he said.

Everyone laughed when I looked skeptical. They said my believing it or not didn't alter the facts.

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SURE-FIRE WAYS TO AVOID BEING BUSTED

Text by Kyle Roq Illustrations by Isabelle Dervaux

● Only smoke dope in the safest situation: driving during the day. If cars around you are a problem, keep them out of your way by running your burglar alarm siren. If you are randomly stopped, tell the compassionate cop the "Fuck Pigs" bumper sticker doesn't refer to the police, but rather your sexual preference. Everything else will be excused merely by explaining the car is a rental, you found the bag there and thought it was oregano that you are smoking. You have the right to refuse a urine test on the grounds that you're pee-shy.

Claim "Temporary Insanity" due to grass, as the reason you didn't pay your traffic tickets for the last year. Tell him you have a letter from your chiropractor, authorizing the smoke for medical reasons. Call the cop's bluff and tell him if he wants to accompany you to your house, you'll be glad to look for the letter. He won't. He has better things to do than help you search your house for a non-existent note.

● Take advantage of seasonal discounts and buy large quantities of sterilized dirt for your grow room in the dead of winter. Have it delivered to your studio apartment. If you're not home, your super can always receive it. Tell him you're a born-again nature-freak, and it's for an indoor lawn you're growing over that artificial carpet he just put in.



● Go to a local garden shop with all your grow room problems. Tell them you're growing HID, hydroponic dieffenbachias for a friend's wedding. Bring a sample leaf, with the edges cut to make it look like another plant. Actually, you have nothing to worry about — you're protected by Gardner-Client Confidentiality.

● The best place for a grow room is the living room closet. If your landlord notices the bright light from behind the closet door at 10 P.M., tell him you converted the closet into a blast furnace for your hobby of metal casting, and you can't open the door because the heat is too intense. Explain why it's easier to leave it on most of the time than refire it. If he asks why you installed a lock on the closet door, tell him, in an obvious and smug manner, that in case you were burglarized, they wouldn't steal your raging blast furnace.

● If your landlady reads the **National Enquirer**, an equally plausible explanation is there's a time warp behind the locked door, and it's noon, February 13, 1885 there.





● Use your stash to influence foreign policy. Take a petition to end U.S. involvement in El Salvador to your local Republican senator's office. Claim the U.S. backed "Freedom Fighters" are responsible for importing drugs into this country and show him the pound you brought as evidence. If your senator expresses wide-eyed amazement, light up and offer him some, to convince him it's marijuana.

● Brag to all your friends and neighbors about your pot garden over your cordless phone.

● Go through customs with salamis and a few pounds of garlic and tropical fruit to mask the scent of the marijuana. Be exceptionally rude to the customs people. If they chose to ignore you, lecture them about inherent human rights to bring back anything you want.

● Have loud satanic mass/rock orgies for your punk friends at 3 A.M. with the Baby Jesus sleeping under the large, decorated marijuana plant. They can't charge you, because that makes it a religious object and smoking is part of your religion.

● Solidify the support of your neighborhood by selling your dope to elementary school kids in the school yard. If their lunch money isn't enough, use the opportunity to misguide suspicions by offering to let them play naked for your photo collection. Take the offensive to squash rumors before they get started: call a special PTA meeting to explain how you're helping the little tykes better understand classics, like **Alice In Wonderland** and **Doors of Perception**. Be sure to bring the naked photos along and point out there are no adults or illegal substances depicted.



DUTCH treats

by ED ROSENTHAL

● Holland has long been a European outpost of cultural freedom, a history which includes an enlightened attitude toward recreational drug use. This reputation has made Amsterdam, the country's principal city, a magnet for millions of Americans who travel to Europe. This month, we take a multi-faceted look at Dutch culture. Our cultivation expert, ED ROSENTHAL, talks with some Dutch youth, travels to a Rotterdam coffeehouse, and visits with local Dutch growers. Also, noted Dutch writer SIMON VINKENOOG gives a brief history of beatnik culture in his "Ode to Amsterdam"—ED. ●



● A coffeehouse window in the Centrum, the center part of Amsterdam.

● An American I know who is staying in Holland introduced me to Bob Warren, of Warren Bros. Ent. He designs many of the stickers used by the coffeehouses as well as paper filters and other promotional items. He also publishes the Golden Blow Guide (blow is another name for pot in Holland). Bob and I hit it off immediately and he took me to meet one of his friends, Ben, who runs the SensiSmile in Rotterdam.

Rotterdam is a hard city. It's Holland's main port, where a lot of the imports arrive, and the mayor of the town does not like it. He makes it hard on the coffeehouses, so there are not too many. Ben is a real aficionado and he has been involved in the scene for a long time. A few years ago he was busted for a greenhouse which held approximately 200 kilos. When the case came to court, Ben came out fighting. He said that it was stupid for the government to be going after soft drugs when there was such a hard drug problem.

He said that the law was stupid and he was unwilling to take this crap. The judge sentenced him to the maximum—a few months. A year ago Ben started a pot store. Not a coffeehouse, but a store that sold nothing but cannabis. The Rotterdam police busted him regularly. The authorities said that customers could not sit in the store so he removed the furniture. The busts continued and

he took them until the police decided to give up. It was really a thrill to go a cannabis store to pick up some weed.

Nevel of the Seed Bank took me to meet a friend of his who owns a coffeehouse in a small town. As soon as he heard I was from HIGH TIMES, he took out his stash of hash for me to inspect and photograph.

I went to another friend's favorite coffeehouse and recorded the following conversation there.

B: "This city gets only a few nice sunny days in summer and still everyone comes here to holiday. My husband came here from England 3 years ago, and came back to stay a few months later."

J: "Amsterdam has everything lacking in London. That place closes up at 23 hours (11 p.m.). And they've outlawed freedom there. It's so repressed."

My acquaintance handed me a joint. In deference to my American habits the



● A friend took me to visit the Exit where I encountered some potent candies. Both the chocolate crunch and cake tasted of hashish. Other coffeehouses sell edibles made with oil or grass.



● When a coffeehouse owner found out I was from HIGH TIMES he pulled out his stash for me to photograph. These are Moroccan and Lebanese slabs.



joint was made solely from sinsemilla with no tobacco added.

J: "When I first came here I couldn't believe it. People in London would think that they died and were in heaven. I live a lot better here and can do what I want. This is an open city and they leave you alone as long as you don't cause trouble or rock the boat."

M: "I have a slightly different perspective regarding Amsterdam and Holland. The government seems to be a lot more responsive to the needs of its citizens. There are no slums, no homeless street people, no hungry, government sponsored health care and virtually no violence or killings.

You know, the Dutch have an interesting way of dealing with things. For instance, dope is illegal but you can buy it in the stores because they feel that it keeps organized crime out of it. Gambling is illegal here except for a couple of legal casinos, but there are casinos that have been open here for years. Prostitution is illegal but the prostitutes

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● A typical street scene along the cobblestone streets. Notice the plants in the window.



● A sample case from the Rusland. There were five grasses and five types of hash in stock when I visited.

YOUNG HOLLAND

CHAI: Living in Holland is great except for the weather, pollution and finding a place without people. Nevertheless, it's still the best country to live in.

It's so easy to live here. The government supplies you with money (if you're a citizen) so that you have time to think and figure out what you want to do with your life. Kids have a lot of rights here and it's more democratic than in other countries. At an early age kids become friends with their parents so that living at home is more like living with older friends. There are shelters for kids that run away and other services for them. I hear that in the U.S. the parents are more authoritarian and they don't let their kids go out. Of course it's safer here people aren't so scared. There's not as much crime as in the U.S., especially rape and murder. The distances are shorter too, with much better public transport. Parents are more assured, because if the kid runs away in Holland there are always youth shelters where they can go and they won't be exploited.

Youth here are a spoiled group. It's not as big a city as New York or Paris, but there are plenty of things to do. There is, technically, an age 16 minimum drinking age but you're never checked. You can go into a disco or bar or any entertainment establishment. There are a lot of tea shops in Holland so you can always go and smoke a joint somewhere without being hassled. And kids get allowances here so that they have some money.

MIRIAM: For me it was different. I grew up in an orphanage and I still have no rights. I can't get a passport because of

the minor laws. I'm not legal until I'm 18, next year.

In the orphanage we lived in a group. There were a lot of different kids who had different interests but we had to subordinate our interests to the group. If we didn't abide by the rules they would send us to a stricter house. The group leaders were never wrong. They acted like keepers and gave us little freedom. I didn't develop close friends because there was a fink system and you could easily get in trouble.

Everything was on a privilege basis. Finally I ran away. I'm still technically a

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIS DONKER



& MIRIAM X



fugitive until I'm 18 but they're not looking for me. I'm living with a group of friends, and am much happier now. It's the best time of my life.

At the orphanage we got only 10 Guilders (\$3-4) a week but that is what a middle-class kid would get because they want you to live a normal life. Of course there are no really poor people here.

C: Most kids spend their allowances on entertainment, snacks and music. There are lots of clubs, programs and other extracurricular activities. They are sponsored by the state but they are really

geared to the kids. There are lots of cheap programs, both for kids and adults to learn skills and interesting things, everything from computers to sports.

The schools are very democratic. The teachers like to teach and are well paid. Discipline is a problem. A lot of kids look at the teacher as an enemy, especially if they don't want to be in the class. We had a bus in Holland called the "Spijbelbus" for kids who were truant. It was parked and fitted with tables and seats so that the kids would have a place to go. But so many kids were on the bus that they had to stop it. It had counselors who would encourage the kids to go back to school, but they often had a beer in their hands as they counseled.

By the age of ten kids start to hang around with the other sex at school and parties and groups. I started dating at 11 and would go to youth centers where they had entertainment but no alcohol. Most kids start dating at 13 or 14.

Sex is not considered a big thing here and kids start 12 and 13. But now the age is a little higher, say 14 or 15. We learned sex education in co-ed classes at 10 and 11. Even so there is a lot of pregnancy. But abortions are easy to obtain. Contraceptives are readily available and parental consent is not needed. The parents expect it, after all they did it themselves, so there are few problems. The kids who have problems are the ones from whose parents are from countries like Turkey and Morocco and Yugoslavia. These kids see their peers having sex and they want to too, but their parents say no, causing them to have a lot of internal conflicts.

Every city has a youth center with football tables, live music, disco, often a dealer, video and a coffeehouse. They are fun to go to with friends.

There are plenty of part-time jobs but not many kids want to work because it's so affluent. When you have lots of free time you realize that you don't want a shit job when you can see the world and the government pay for not working is so

high. We are a very spoiled people. We hire immigrants to do the shit work, but since the recession they are trying to cut back on guest workers.

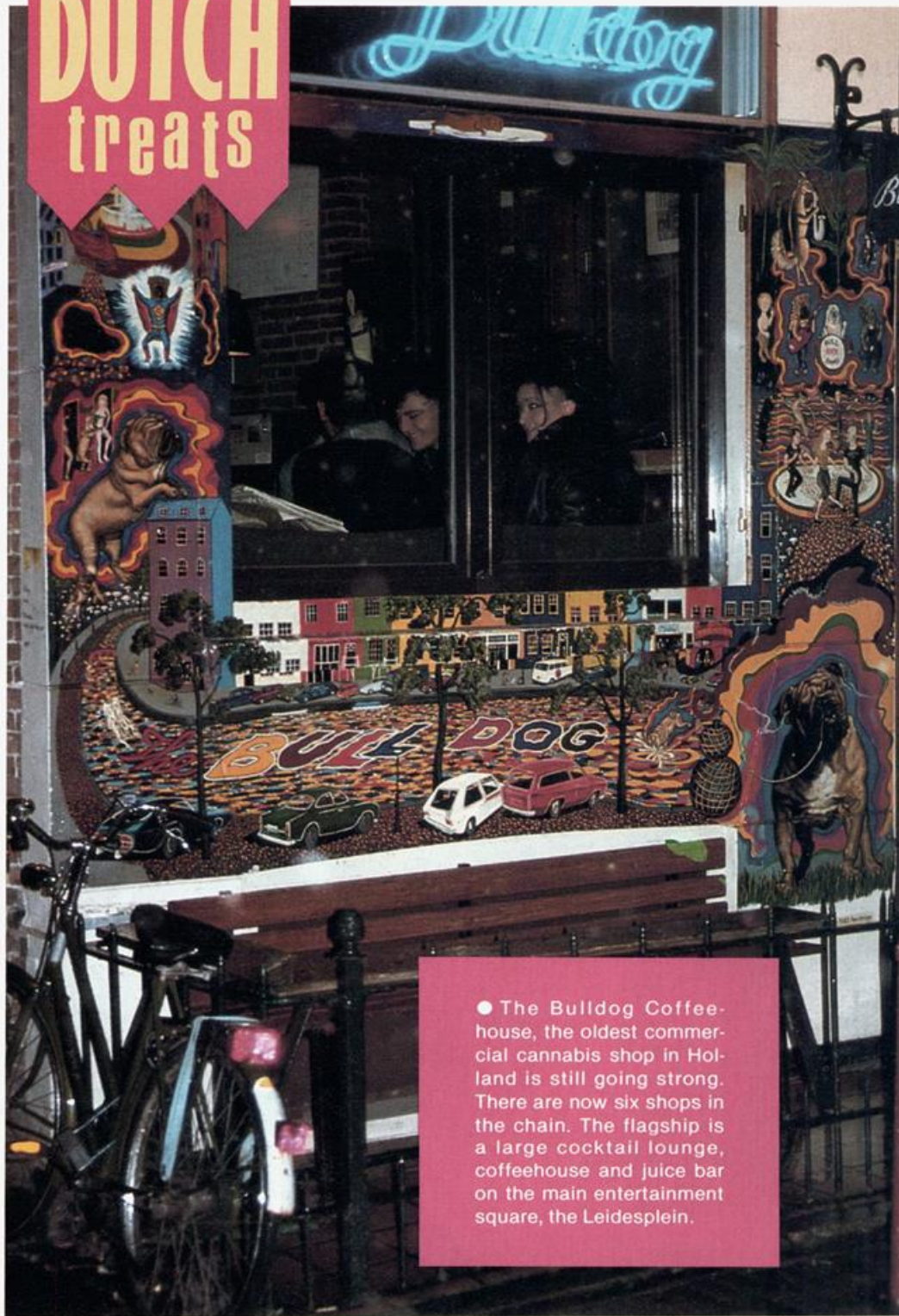
M: I've had a lot of jobs since I was 15, such as a bartender, smuggler, ticket seller at an amusement park, kitchen work, etc. Now I'm a dealer in a coffeehouse. In order to get any kind of good job you need

specialized training. Cops need no papers because it is so hard to recruit them.

Kids here speak a number of languages. Dutch of course, and English is mandatory, but that's easy because all the rock music, movies, TV serials and many books are in English. It's like a second language here.

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DUTCH treats



● The Bulldog Coffeehouse, the oldest commercial cannabis shop in Holland is still going strong. There are now six shops in the chain. The flagship is a large cocktail lounge, coffeehouse and juice bar on the main entertainment square, the Leidesplein.

ED ROSENTHAL

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Ruby Brunson



● The Rijksmuseum is dedicated to works of modern art. It contains an extensive collection of modern masters' works as well as the works of Holland's many subsidized artists. The place has some great works and it's a good stoned show. Make sure to check out "The Beanery." The museum is a short walk from Vondelpark, an extensive greenspot in the midst of the city. The park gets crowded in the summer.



● A rooftop greenhouse in Amsterdam. Last year quite a few of them sprouted on the flat roofs of Holland cities.

DUTCH treats

DUTCH BEAT

● **SIMON VINKENOOG**, the author of this ode to Amsterdam, was born in Amsterdam in 1928, and lived in Paris from 1948 till 1956. He was introduced to marijuana smoking in 1952; his first LSD came to him in Amsterdam where he'd returned to live as a (performing) poet, autobiographical writer, chronicler, and master of ceremonies.

With George Andrews he co-edited **The Book of Grass** (1966, Penguin). In his own country he published **How to Enjoy Reality** (with Jean-Paul Vroom) about the pleasures of turning on, and two more books on the subject: **Het Moederkruid** and **Moeder Gras**.

Surrounded by children and other friends, he likes to quote Ken Kesey: "Good old grass I can recommend. To be just without being mad... to be peaceful without being stupid, to be interested without being compulsive, to be happy without being hysterical... smoke grass."

When the American poets Gregory Corso, Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky visited Amsterdam in 1958, the Russians saw fit to launch their Sputnik, which inspired Allen to write his POEM Rocket (**Kad-dish and other Poems**, City Lights, 1961):

"O fellow travellers I write you a poem in Amsterdam in the Cosmos
where Spinoza ground his magic lenses long
ago I write you a poem long
ago already my feet are washed in death
Here I am naked without identity"
Within a few minutes the poets had

made Amsterdam their home town, with friends all over. They found a virgin city; the great post-war monolithic and cosmopolitan trends hadn't hit the city yet; it was still waking up to its new spirit, being yet in the post-holocaust suffering stages.

One out of each ten Amsterdam inhabitants, being of Jewish origin, had been deported and massacred—it was not only their abandoned and plundered houses that had left scars in the old city's guts. The new-wave spirit of existentialism, je m'en foutism and other -isms had yet to reach these shores.

On the other hand, Amsterdam had then, as it still has now, some other worthwhile things to offer visitors from abroad; the dictum that Amsterdam is the oldest inhabited inner city of Europe is still an undeniable truth, as many have ascertained for themselves.

This author, young in years at the time (not having reached the fastidious age of thirty yet), on meeting the crème de la crème of the American beat generation at the jazz-café Bohemia, had thrown himself full time and profoundly into the seducing intimacies of his hometown after eight years spent in Paris, France. He'd become a follower of the great Old Man from the Moun-



tains in Paris—through the good graces of his American *nisei*-friend Shinkichi Tajiri, ex-G.I., ex-student and expatriate, a sculptor who was later to settle in the Netherlands—and who made, while in Paris in 1955, one of the most touching and spirited films about the creative use of cannabis (the first, maybe?): **The Vipers.**

The scene Allen Ginsberg & friends encountered in Amsterdam was certainly a small one; its intimacy had not diminished in the least when LSD (and related chemicals—mescaline, THC, DMT)—became available. LSD had been tried first in the years '58-'59 on some fifty intellectual and artistic guinea pigs by a group of psychiatrists at Paviljoen 3 (the psychiatric ward!) of the Wilhelmina Hospital. Later, it was more widely distributed through the wheelings and dealings of friends met on the road in Ibiza, Majorca or Tangiers. And then the Sixties rolled along: after hearing of the psychedelic experiments in Amsterdam, Allen Ginsberg had written to me, "I think the human race is mutating; we'll all be the Messiah together!"

And, as if these words were whispered around in the still not yet named "underground," Amsterdam awakened to its collective discoveries. At that moment, words like beatnik, hippie, underground, trip, flip etc. had not been coined though I know of a few people perusing Norman Mailer's definitions of "hip" and "the White Negro" (American

brother to the Englishman Colin Wilson's "Outsider").

"Only that which is fertile, is true"—the Romantic German writer Schiller had said, and fertile ground is what it is: this city, so small that you cannot get lost in it, at the same time offering you various possible reconnoiterings in its day- and night-life. The city of Amsterdam, known already as a haven of freedom for some of the other minorities persecuted elsewhere—a century-old tradition of which the Dutch are rightly proud—also became the European Mecca of ye olde blow. A streak of independence was developing as well, which in a country with shorter communication-lines than feasible in one of the bigger bureaucratic states, enabled many individuals to live out their ideas, dreams and ideals in the realms of creative expressions, in a local jazz scene, theatrical developments, the first macrobiotics, the new age movements and sects, the multi-media centers like Paradiso, Melkweg and Fantasio—later renamed Kosmos (all still functioning)—dancing Hare Krishnas, visits of celebrities like the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, with a stay-in-bed-for-peace piece in the Hilton Hotel.

Much good has been said of the unorganized, loose-knit and anarchistic provo-happenings in the streets of Amsterdam, and rightly so, but outsiders from abroad have only seldom been able to ascertain how many other things were happening synchronously in

the character of the Netherlands: shifting moods, modes of thought, changes in the political and theological spectrum as well. Through their bungling mishandling of the provo street guerillas, both the Mayor of Amsterdam and its Chief of Police had to resign or be replaced; a new neo-liberal party made its appearance (D'66), the coalition-partner Labour (PvdA) had its younger New Left-waves, and contrary to the law and order-regimes in other European countries, the Netherlands did not fall prey to the American dope paranoia which landed so many innocent peaceful marijuana and hashish users in jail. Criminologists were able to pinpoint the character of the witch hunts in past and present: witches, heretics, Jews, gypsies, gays—noting that it would be detrimental to society to add new scapegoats to its growing problems.

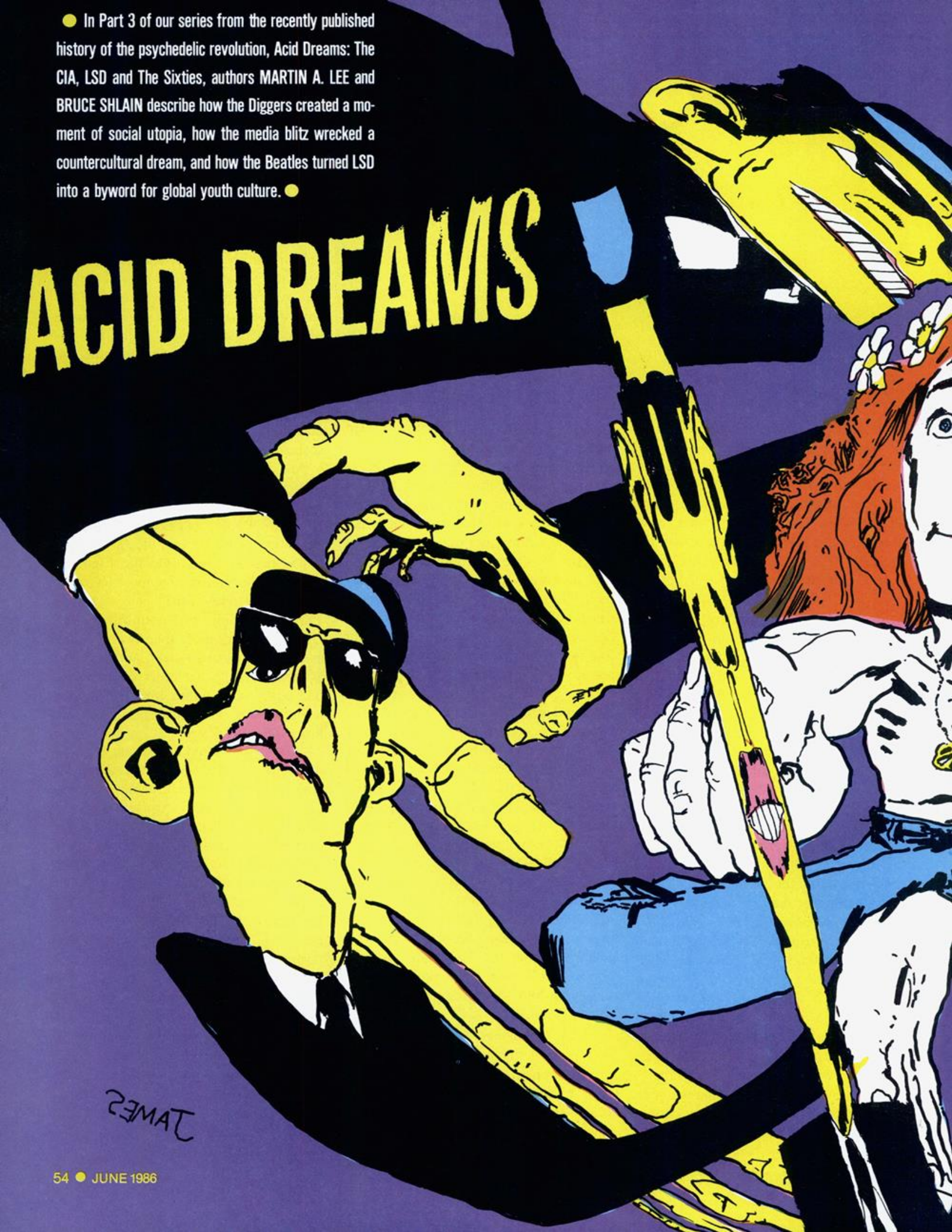
And so the situation grew into what now offers itself to the amazed visitor; together with the other Sixties events in Berlin, Paris, Prague, London, Berkeley and elsewhere, the Amsterdam atmosphere survived into the Eighties, may be as a futuristic/signpost for other societies to follow suit?

The French philosopher René Descartes spent more than twenty years as an exile in Amsterdam, and wrote to a friend: "[In] what other country can one enjoy such entire liberty?" And a recent visitor to Amsterdam, the San Francisco poet Ralph LaCharity, wrote: "A key is that some fertile and talented mojos have stayed with it, the shepherds and gardeners of an organic reaching out. This is where Amsterdam is a school for a certain kind of longing, the expressive spirit of poetry tended to year in and year out, learning to handle the odd-angled pains and diseases that can come upon the perfecting spirit. Unafraid cats with big hearts, in it for the long haul. No prima donnas. No tantrums. No sour shit festering. Always willing to reach out further, step back quicker, stand up taller."

How well expressed! How magic this city is indeed, looking at it with the new eyes of wonder, amazement, and love... Which is where it's at, and forever will be. Welcome, stranger, share a toke—you're welcome to it. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. So eat! ●

● In Part 3 of our series from the recently published history of the psychedelic revolution, *Acid Dreams: The CIA, LSD and The Sixties*, authors MARTIN A. LEE and BRUCE SHLAIN describe how the Diggers created a moment of social utopia, how the media blitz wrecked a countercultural dream, and how the Beatles turned LSD into a byword for global youth culture. ●

ACID DREAMS



JAMES

STONE FREE

Something's astir on Haight Street. Thousands of hippies are making the scene when a roving band of mysterious characters suddenly appears among the day-trippers, passing out handbills that bear enigmatic phrases: Street Menu and Carte de Venue ("Your ticket to somewhere"). It's the beginning of a street theater spectacle put on by a gangster performing troupe who call themselves the Diggers. The theme on this occasion is "The Death of Money and the Birth of Free." A bizarre funeral cortege is making its way up LSD Avenue. Leading the procession is a group of women mourners dressed in black singing "Get out my life why don't you babe..." to the tune of Chopin's Funeral March. They are followed by three hooded figures hoisting a silver dollar sign on a stick and a half-dozen pallbearers carrying a black-draped coffin. Even stranger are the huge animal masks—at least five feet high—worn by the pallbearers.

There won't be any reruns of this event, no encores or applause—in fact, there aren't even any spectators. Everyone's part of the show. The entire neighborhood becomes the stage as twenty death walkers at the rear of the funeral march give away flutes, flowers, pennywhistles, and lollipops in preparation for the next "act," so to speak, a cacophonous orchestration mocking the law against being a public nuisance. Public nuisance equals public "New sense," get it? Hundreds of hippies line both sides of the street with instruments in hand, goofing and spoofing, and so it goes, one scene after another for hours at a time.

As twilight approaches, a few hundred rearview car mirrors procured from a junkyard are distributed to the mischievous masses, who are encouraged to climb atop the buildings and reflect the setting sun down onto the street. Meanwhile a chorus of women in silver bell-bottom pants, bolero tops, and tie-dye outfits raises a banner of marbled paper inscribed with a poem and chants back and forth to some other women perched on the rooftops. Thousands pick up the cue and chant poetry, and soon the police arrive to clear the mob scene—a rather formidable task, considering that the crowd has swelled to unmanageable proportions. The spontaneous interaction between cops and hippies (call it a riot) becomes part of the performance. It's all for free—a free-for-all: anarchist antics scripted to make something wide-open happen. "Street events are rituals of release. Re-claiming of territory (sundown, traffic, public joy) through spirit," proclaimed a Digger manifesto. "No one can control the single circuit-breaking moment that charges games with critical reality. If the glass is cut, if the cushioned distance of the media is removed, the patients may never respond as normals again. They will become life actors... a cast of freed beings."

JAMES ROMBERGER

The Diggers burst upon the scene in the summer of 1966, when a number of actors broke away from the San Francisco Mime Troupe and formed their own loose-knit collective. They felt that the Mime Troupe's political satire was too formal, a predictable rehash of left-wing ideas that failed to appreciate the Haight's unique potential for a new kind of social theater—"a poetry of festivals and crowds, with people pouring into the streets," as Artaud put it. The debate over dropping out versus political engagement was a moot point to the Diggers. Their imaginative pageants were beyond codification, challenging the assumptions of the New Left as well as the psychedelic religious fringe.

The Diggers took their name from a seventeenth-century English farming group that preached and practiced a form of revolutionary communism. Convinced that money and private property were the work of the Devil, the original Diggers claimed squatters' rights for the people and gave free food to the needy. When Lord Protector Cromwell announced the Enclosure Act which allowed landowners to cordon off public lands for their own use, the Diggers responded by digging the soil (hence their name) and planting a garden in the Commons Area. Their defiance provoked the wrath of Cromwell and his Roundheads, who charged the upstarts with "encouraging the looser and disordered sort of people into greater boldness." The priests began exhorting their congregations to go out and give the trouble makers hell, and a wave of bloody repression ensued.

Like their British forebears, the San Francisco Diggers believed that the world was run by a cabal of greedy liars and thieves. It was downright foolish to expect the perpetrators to redress the ills they had created, for to deal with a system that was rotten to the core—either by fighting it or joining it—could only lead to further corruption. The Diggers never protested for or against anything, refusing to be seduced by the romantic pretensions of the New Left, whose faith in the efficacy of telling Truth to Power betrayed its own naivete. That was how the Diggers saw it, and they had no intention of squandering their energy on angry leftist protest that would end up filling a twenty-second slot on the TV news. Peace marches and demonstrations might provide an outlet for private frustrations—a

dose of solidarity for temporary relief of alienation—but it seemed doubtful to the Diggers that all the word-slinging and finger-pointing would amount to much in terms of real change.

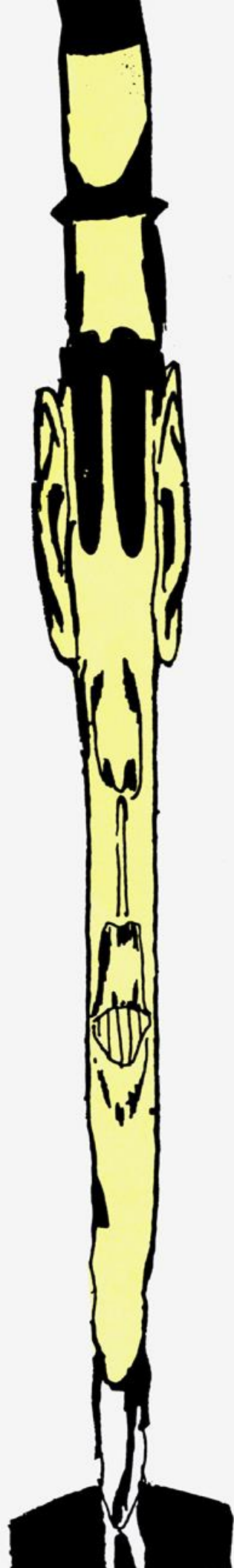
If you wanted a better world, the Diggers maintained, then it was up to you to make it happen, because no one else—least of all the fraudulent politicians—would hand it over on a silver platter. To take back what was rightfully theirs, people had to assume their own freedom in the here and now: "Now frozen

The media reduced a complex social phenomenon to sensationalism.

moments for tomorrow's fantasy revolution!" The Diggers went about their business as if utopia were already a social fact and everyone were free. They chided other lefties for being stodgy, dull, and fixated on social models (Cuba, China, Vietnam) that had little relevance to the situation in the United States. The goal of revolution, as far as the Diggers were concerned, was not merely to seize the wealth hoarded by a handful of the filthy rich and spread it among the hapless masses. A simple transference of power, a redistribution of things already valued, constituted only a degree of liberation. At best it was a prelude to an overall transformation of values culminating in a revolt against the very concepts of power, property, and hierarchy.

The Diggers sensed a tremendous opportunity in the mid-1960s to experiment with what postindustrial society might look like assuming the human species survived its next cataclysmic moment. Although the precise features of this new social order were never consistently articulated, one could begin by postulating the abolition of the division between labor and leisure, so that the logic of the game once again took precedence in human affairs. It was a game they played for keeps. "Western society has destroyed itself," stated the Diggers Papers. "The culture is extinct. Politics are as dead as the culture they supported. Ours is the first skirmish of an enormous struggle, infinite in its implications."

Tough, charismatic, and streetwise, the Diggers illuminated



the Haight with wild strokes of artistic genius. In acting out their version of an alternative society, they emerged as the avant-garde of American anarchism, a homespun tradition that went back to the previous century and had recently taken a detour through psychedelics. For the Diggers LSD was "hard kicks," a way of extending oneself to the perimeters of existence where something spectacular and awesome might occur. Acid imbued their eyes with a visionary gleam and provided the distance that enabled them to see how they matched up against the grand scheme of life. But the Diggers never copped to the notion that everything would be groovy if everyone turned on. The Oracle's transcendental twaddle struck them as vapid and elitist. They scoffed at those who took drugs to discover the hidden truth and mystery of being.

The Diggers viewed acid in terms of personal fulfillment, but always within a social context. They were more activist-oriented than revelatory: things were real when people did them, and what they did had to relate to the basics: food, clothing, shelter, creativity. As a counterpoint to the vague love ethic of the flower children, they promoted the no-nonsense ethic of "FREE!" When they began serving free meals in the Panhandle in the autumn of 1966, it wasn't a one-shot publicity stunt. This Robin Hood routine actually continued on a daily basis for more than a year. Any hippie—or straight, for that matter—who was hungry merely had to show up at the park at 4:00 P.M., walk through a large orange scaffold (a "Free Frame of Reference"), and chow down. The Diggers also set up a Free Store, which distributed a wide range of "liberated goods" (most of which had been donated by local shopkeepers.) There was even a basket with "free money" in it, if anyone was short on cash. The Diggers were dead-set against profiteering of any kind, whether it involved dope dealing or HIP merchants hawking psychedelic souvenirs during tourist season. They insisted that any hippie worth his salt had to drop out of America's true national pastime—the money game. "The US standard of living is a bourgeois baby blanket for executives who scream in their sleep... Our fight is with those who would kill us through dumb work, insane wars, dull money morality."



The media portrayed the Digger thing as a good-will gig, a "hip Salvation Army." Of course they missed the point entirely. Charity was not what motivated the free service initiatives. The Diggers were attempting to lay the groundwork for a collective apparatus, an alternative power base capable of providing the necessary resources so that people wouldn't have to depend on the system or the state to get by. The gist was practical but also theatrical. Inject FREE into any event, and it could turn into theater. FREE was "social acid" that blew apart conditioned responses and called into question prevalent cultural attitudes about class, status, morality, consumerism, etc. Like LSD, FREE could shake people out of the ruts of ordinary perception and catalyze some sort of revelation. This was the upshot of Digger activities: to make street theater into an art form, a social opera that would ignite and liberate the human spirit.

To the Diggers FREE also meant not claiming credit for what they did. Anonymity was a cornerstone of their operations, and it greatly enhanced their mystique as a group. Of the dozen men and women who initially formed the Diggers, there was no single leader or spokesperson. Whoever had a good idea became the prime mover of that project; others pitched in if the spirit moved them. People did what they were good at doing, but they also made a point of keeping out of the media spotlight. They were wary of the media not only because it distorted everything but also because it was hierarchical, an intermediary between people and the world. Worst of all it purported to tell people "the way it is," when everyone should be their own source of news. The Diggers had little tolerance for reporters and made it difficult for them whenever

they came around for interviews. On one occasion a journalist from the *Saturday Evening Post* dropped by the Free Store and asked to speak with the manager. He was told that the manager was a shy person who didn't like to answer questions would make an exception in this instance. The man from the *Post* was then introduced to a *Newsweek* reporter who had been told the same thing. The two stiffly questioned each other in a corner for twenty minutes before discovering that they'd been duped.

The Diggers' aggressive anarchism ran into conflict with the Oracle group, which went out of its way to accommodate the Fourth Estate as part of the publicity campaign for the be-in. Although the Diggers had not been specifically invited to the be-in, they showed up anyway and gave out free food and ten thousand hits of "white lightning" acid Owsley had recently concocted. But that did not mean they approved of the be-in format, which was dominated by media personalities and centered around a stage—the same old hierarchical mode. In contrast to the Oracle's shoot-the-moon scenario of one huge global turn-on, the Diggers' focused on the immediate nitty gritty concerns of their own community. They set up crash pads and a free medical service for the young runaways who started flocking to the Haight after the be-in; they facilitated group rituals (often coinciding with solstice and equinox celebrations) as a way of unifying the spaced-out zone of hip; and they kept up their criticism of the HIP merchants and media sycophants whose "psychedelic logorrhea" prevented them from getting down to brass tacks and dealing with the serious problems that plagued the acid ghetto.

A lot of changes had taken place as a result of the media blitz. The local press was having a field day, with reporters from the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner* engaged in a running contest to see who could come up with the most lurid details about the human zoo on Haight Street. They took a complex social phenomenon, reduced it to a few sensationalistic elements, and repeated the same tripe over and over again. In every edition there were stories dwelling dwelt on dope, promiscuity, long hair, filth, and bizarre behavior—themes that reflected the prurient interests and prejudices of straight journalists locked into the usual-middle class stereotypes about bohemia. The



JAMES ROMBERGER

sensational press coverage was tantamount to a full-scale advertising campaign—albeit of a twisted sort—and the neighborhood became a magnet for people who were into just what the media reported: sex, drugs, dirt, weirdness, all the seamiest aspects of the hippie trip. A different crowd filtered into the acid ghetto, and although it passed unnoticed at first, the original community began to disintegrate.

The psychedelic style had a certain meaning for the first wave of self-conscious innovators who were engaged in acting out communal modes of existence. Mundane objects such as love beads and peace insignias were tokens of self-imposed exile that communicated a forbidden identity; they warned the straight world of a threat and issued an oblique challenge to consumer society. But this meaning was not

readily apparent to the multitudes who turned on for the first time after the be-in. Before long, teenyboppers and “plastic hippies” from the suburbs started frequenting the hip hotspots for some weekend entertainment. Department stores blossomed out in paisley swirls and psychedelic color schemes, and hippie lingo entered into common usage; suddenly everyone was “rapping” about “doing their own thing.” Long hair, beads, and dope—anyone could be a hippie by following the latest fashions.

Tempers were already at a boiling point when the Chronicle picked up an offhand comment by a Digger and turned it into a front page banner headline: “HIPPIES WARN CITY—100,000 WILL INVADE HAIGHT ASHBURY THIS SUMMER.” Images of a psychedelic *Grapes of Wrath* sent city officials into a tizzy. The mayor

immediately declared “war on the Haight,” and shortly thereafter the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution stating that hippies were officially unwelcome in their town. A futile gesture, to be sure, as the press kept on predicting that a deluge of acid eaters would descend upon the Golden Gated city as soon as school let out for the summer.

As self-fulfilling prophecies went, this one couldn't be beat. The acid ghetto was headed for a forced consciousness expansion of the rudest sort unless someone figured out a way to stabilize an already overloaded community. The crisis was so grave various community groups—including the Diggers, the Oracle people, the HIP merchants, and the Family Dog—put aside their differences and tried to work out strategies for housing and feeding the media-hyped masses. They proposed that Golden Gate Park be turned into a huge free campground, but the city's political leaders balked at the idea. The Diggers countered by organizing a feed-in on the steps of City Hall. They dished out free spaghetti and meat sauce to government workers and circulated a leaflet that read, “Say if you are hungry, we will feed you, and if you are tired, we will give you a place to rest. This is to affirm responsibility. We merely provide food, shelter and clothing because it should be done.”

Some took it as an omen when the Monterey Pop Festival drew nearly fifty thousand people to the Bay Area shortly before the summer solstice, becoming the largest rock and roll event of its time. Flyers at the Human Be-In had first announced the festival, a non-profit affair with the slogan “Music, love, and flowers.” Monterey featured a lineup of psychedelic superstars, including Janis Joplin, the Byrds, the Grateful Dead, and Jimi Hendrix. Joplin pulled out all the stops in a total freak-rock performance that was seen by millions in D. A. Pennebaker's film of the concert. But it was Hendrix who really stole the show when he ended his first American appearance by kneeling in front of his electric guitar and setting it on fire. For the country as a whole, the acid rock era really began with Monterey. Scott McKenzie summed up what it all portended for the Haight when he sang his hit single during the final set: “If you're going to San Francisco, be sure to wear flowers in your hair.”

The entire city braced itself in

uneasy anticipation as young people started pouring into the Haight. They came in droves, a ragtag army of tattered pilgrims who'd gone AWOL from the Great Society. Propelled by a gut-level emptiness, they rode the crest of Kerouac's bum romance, searching for kicks or comfort or a spiritual calling—anything that might relieve the burden of nonliving that gnawed at their insides. They believed that it would be like the newspapers said, that somewhere at the other end of the rainbow was Haight-Ashbury, the Capital of Forever, where beautiful people cared for each other, where all would be provided and everyone could do their own thing without being hassled.

But the Haight was hardly a paradise during the so-called Summer of Love. The early days of acid glory had receded into memory along with the pioneering spirit that once sustained the hip community. Things were getting rougher on the street, and a lot of kids left when the vibes got too heavy. Those who remained were quick to learn the meaning of Dylan's adage: "The rules of the road have been lodged, it's only people's games that you got to dodge." Young runaways had a hard time finding a way to earn a living or even a place to sleep. Some took to begging for spare change, but the transient rut didn't hold much in the way of good luck. It was enough just to avoid getting caught in the wicked undertow of the drug scene, which claimed more than a few victims in the Haight.

Most of the newcomers were less interested in gleaning philosophic or creative insight than in getting stoned as often as possible. They smoked or swallowed anything said to be a psychedelic, and when the visions grew stale they turned to other drugs, especially amphetamines. That such charms were addictive or potentially lethal mattered little, for the dangers belonged to the future, and the future was a slim prospect at best, too improbable to acknowledge with anything but a shrug. For these people Haight-Ashbury was the last hope. They had nowhere else to go. They were the casualties of the Love Generation. You could see them in the early morning fog, huddled in doorways, hungry, sick and numb from exposure, their eyes flirting with vacancy. They were Doomsday's children, strung out on no tomorrow, and their ghostlike features were eerie proof that a black hole was sucking at the heart of the American dynamo.

The Great Summer Drop-Out

Nineteen sixty-seven was a year of stark contrasts. America's war against the Vietnamese had swollen into a disaster, provoking disgust and condemnation throughout the world. The black ghettos of Detroit and Newark exploded in the summer heat while Aretha Franklin belted out her anthem for women and oppressed minorities: "All I want is a little respect..." Yet it was also a moment of highflying and heretofore unimagined optimism as the youth movement reached a dazzling apogee. (Time magazine gave its Man of the Year award in 1967 to "anyone under twenty-five.") Nowhere was the upbeat sentiment of these turbulent times better expressed than by the Beatles, who embodied in their music and personalities the very principle of change itself.

The Beatles were the foremost lyric spokesmen for an entire generation: millions worshiped their verse as holy writ. Their songs were synchronous with the emotional excitement surrounding Haight-Ashbury. The Beatles were a symbol of the communal group that could accomplish anything, and their unprecedented success fueled the optimism of the times in countless ways. Just before the Great Summer Dropout, the Beatles gave the blossoming psychedelic subculture a stunning musical benediction with their release, in June 1967, of the album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Later that month they supplied an anthem for the advocates of flower power, "All You Need Is Love," in the first live international satellite broadcast, to an estimated audience of seven hundred million people. "I declare," stated Timothy Leary, "that the Beatles are mutants. Prototypes of evolutionary agents sent by God with a mysterious power to create a new species—a young race of laughing free men... They are the wisest, holiest, most effective avatars the human race has ever produced."

In their early days the Beatles had popped uppers and downers to keep pace with the rigors of the late-night performing circuit in the bars of Hamburg, Germany. They took whatever was around—French blues, purple hearts, and the "yellow submarines" immortalized in their "children's song" of the same name. It wasn't until 1964, after they broke through to rock stardom, that they tried marijuana. The Fab Four got their first whiff of the wacky weed when John Lennon smoked a joint with Bob Dylan at London's Heathrow Airport. It was a happy high, and from then on the Beatles spent much of their time together stoned.

In early 1965 Lennon and his wife, Cynthia, went to dinner with George Harrison at a friend's. The host slipped a couple of sugar cubes of LSD into their after-dinner coffee, and things got a little barmy when they left. Cynthia remembered it as an ordeal. "John was crying and banging his head against the wall. I tried to make myself sick, and couldn't. I tried to go to sleep, and couldn't. It was like a nightmare that wouldn't stop, whatever you did. None of us got over it for about three days." For John the experience was equally terrifying. "We didn't know what was going on," he recalled. "We were just insane. We were out of our heads."

Despite his jarring initiation into psychedelia, within a year John Lennon would be dropping acid as casually as he had once smoked a cigarette. But Lennon was hardly in the vanguard of psychedelic use, which had gained a certain degree of currency among British rock bands in the mid-1960s. A number of pop stars, including Donovan Leitch, Keith Richards, and the Yardbirds, had been introduced to LSD via Michael Hollingshead and his short-lived World Psychedelic Center in London. Soon the turned-on message was being broadcast throughout the English-speaking world, and acid became an international phenomenon. The Rolling Stones announced that "Something Happened to Me Yesterday"; Eric Burdon and the Animals crooned a love song to "A Girl Named Sandoz." Across the ocean in America the Count Five were having a "Psychotic Reaction," the Electric Prunes had "Too Much to Dream Last Night," the Amboy Dukes took a "Journey to the Center of My Mind," and the Byrds flew "Eight Miles High."

continued on page 88

ASKED

BY ED ROSENTHAL

Dear Ed,

I am planning on expanding my mini-greenhouse. Right now I have a 1000W metal halide and CO₂ in a highly reflective 10' x 10' room. Would a 1000W sodium vapor addition with tracks be best or would two 400W metal halides on track with a stationary 400W sodium vapor be more effective?

—The Couch Potato
Tawas, Michigan

The three 400W units obviously would emit more light than a single 1000W unit. While the single lamp would be on a track, the three 400W units can be stationary. They emit light from different points so that it is dispersed more evenly. Horizontally mounted lamps get more light to the target area easier.

Dear Ed,

I have two questions.

My waterpipe has a residue which is alcohol soluble but not water soluble. Is it psychoactive?

I have a hydroponic sreet-up in a 7' x 7' room. Would I gain more by changing from a 400W Metal halide (MH) to a 1000w MH or would I be better off to keep the 400w MH and add a CO₂ generator? I can't afford both so I have to make a choice.

—Thanks,
Name withheld,
Richmond, VA

The residue in the waterpipe is probably psychoactive since it is alcohol soluble.

The CO₂ unit is your best bet. With little additional cost, except for the initial outlay, the crop's growth rate and the growth rate per unit of electricity will increase in a dramatic way as the plant uses the light energy more efficiently.

Dear Ed,

I have been studying my plants' flowering for a while now and have found out some interesting information. When the temperature in my garden falls below 55 degrees Fahrenheit (13 degrees Celsius), the male flowers do not open. As soon as the temperature increases the flowers open.

Also, I have been able to preserve pollen for later fertilization by placing it in glassine bags in a glass container and freezing it. I have stored it for up to three months with no seeming loss of fertility or genetic problems.

—The Doo-Dah Man
Rotterdam, Holland

Dear Ed,

I harvested some seeds from a bud. Although they are all mature, they vary in size—some are twice as large as others. Will this effect plant size?

—Mucho grasstias,
T.H.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The size of the seeds from a particular bud varies for one of two reasons. The first may be genetic; some wild kush seeds are extremely small, just a little bit larger than a carrot seed. Hemp seeds are sometimes as large as a small peppercorn.

The second reason is genetic. Seeds from a sparsely pollinated bud grow larger than those from a heavily seeded bud because they have less competition for nutrients. Some seeds in a particular bud may have had a better environment than others.

In any case, seed size and plant size are not necessarily related.

Dear Ed,

Last May MN in Shreveport wrote about a termite problem. I had the problem in plants that were dug up and moved. No matter how careful you are there is some root damage. Maybe this gives termites a place to start.

Other plants growing in the same area were not harmed. They were out straight from the seed starter trays and grew like hell. A damaged root system not only leaves the plants open to attack from insects and disease, but growth is severely stunted. Hope this helps.

—Name withheld,
Woodruff, South Carolina

Thanks for your tip.

Dear Ed,

I have a plant that has three leaves in a set instead of two. Have you ever seen this before? How can I keep the characteristic alive?

—Thanks,
Marvin the Starvin
Tacoma, Washington

Seedlings with sets of three rather than two leaves pop up occasionally. Usually the plant self branches by the fifth internode and each branch has normal leaf configuration. The three leaf configuration rarely continues to the mature plant, but it does happen. Usually the stems are flattened rather than round and are more fragile than other stems. When these branches flower the buds often have a peculiar shape, growing horizontally and looking something like a caterpillar. Potency does not seem to be affected and the yield on these buds is often smaller than on normal colas.

Although the characteristic is genetically based, the chances are that this characteristic is recessive. If that is the case, the first generation of plants grown from a cross with a normal plant will not be three leaf sets. However, the next generation of plants produced from these F1 crosses should have a small number of three leaved plants.

You might also try taking clones from the branch to continue the characteristic and then try to induce male flowers in one of the clones so that the plant can be bred to itself.

Dear Ed,

Last year I started ten plants but only one survived the deer. My sweet baby was able to survive because of the mothballs I hung all over the plant. After four months the balls were still there and you could still smell them.

—Delta 9,
Wheeling, West Virginia

Dear Ed,

Last year I grew some red haired sinsemilla. When the weed got to four feet sea gulls ate the buds from 75 plants. What can I do to stop this madness?

—The Mad Farmer,
Arapahoe, NC

Bird netting, used to keep birds off fruit trees, might help. Do any readers have suggestions on how to keep birds from pecking pot?

Dear Ed,

I recently installed a CO₂ tank. Now I have to water every two-three days rather than five-seven. Is this increase normal?

—Thanx,

Indoors and Loving It,
Modesto, California

Yes. The photosynthesis rate of the plants has increased because the plants have more CO₂. The plants transpire water and use it as a source of hydrogen for building sugars, so they need more of it as their photosynthesis rate increases.

Dear Ed,

I am planning to take a lot of cuttings from my plants for cloning. What I would like to know is, are side shoots as good as cuttings from the main stem?

—Ed the Head,
Virginia

Clones from side shoots have the same genetic qualities as the ones from the main stem. Robert Clarke claims that shoots shaded while on the plant root easier because they have more stored carbohydrates.

Dear Ed,

I'm just about to start budding my first crop of plants under a single 1000W HPS I keep reading that you should use a combination of MH and HPS lamps for best results. Would I be better off using two 400W lamps, and HPS and an MH?

—Thanks,

JJJ

State of Washington



GARDEN OF THE MONTH A small porch garden in urban Holland.



PLANT OF THE MONTH When the weather got too cold we brought our pet plant indoors and kept it alive and growing barely. In the spring we plan to put it out again.



BUD OF THE MONTH This Dutch grown Afghani purpled out as the cool weather set in. But it continued to grow and mature. It was ready in early October.

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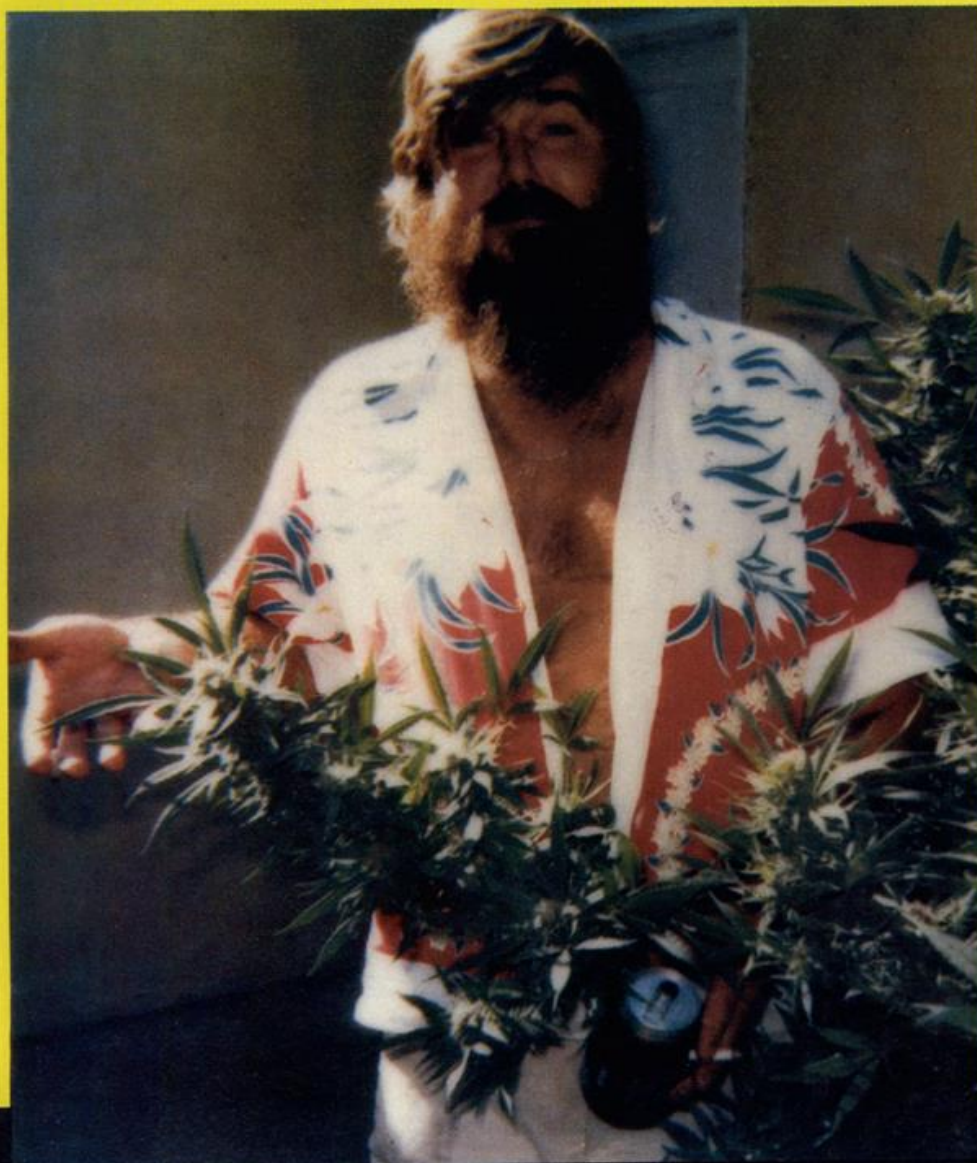


Col. WAXX
FOR COURAGE



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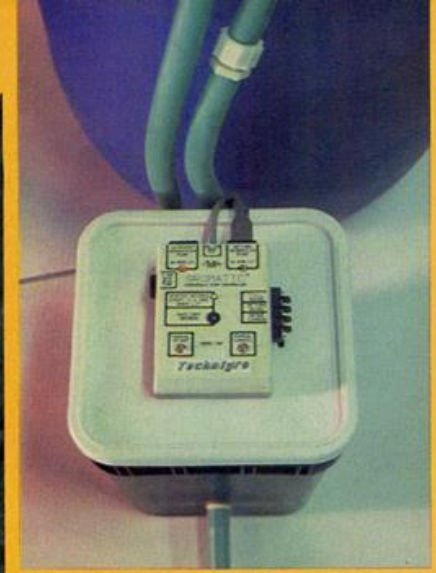
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FOR HUMOUR



● This "mini greenhouse" is a passive hydroponic cloning chamber.

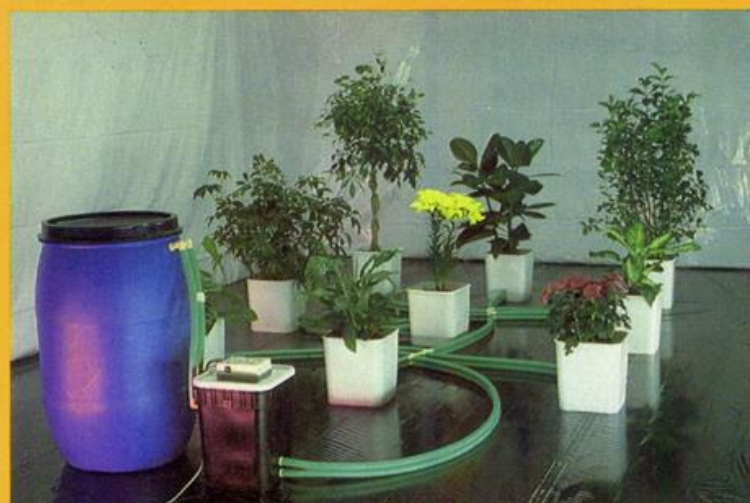
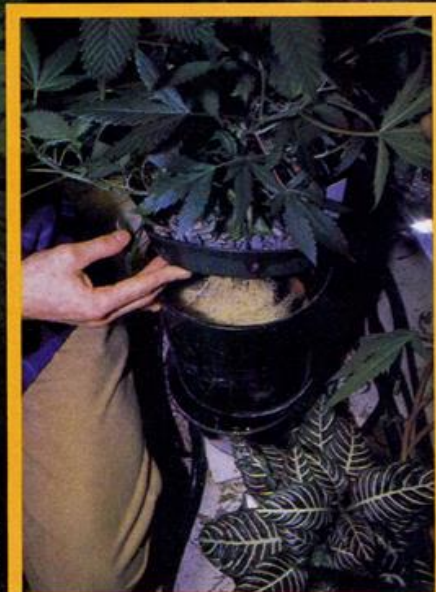


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BY JORGE CERVANTES

● THIS IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF articles written by Jorge Cervantes, author of the bestselling *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture*, known by many as the Bible of indoor growing. The series will detail just about anything the novice and experienced indoor grower could want to know. Everything from air to zinc, hertz to harvest, from tools to transplanting will be outlined in this new series. Stay tuned for the high-lights from "The Great Indoors."

"I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS PLACE, it's wall-to-wall buds" said Tom as he squinted at the doorway of the 6' x 10' grow room. "How in the hell do you do it? I've got to have a grow room just like this one at my house."

"Hydroponic's and halides have been the ticket for me," Ron said with a smile. "With this hydroponic system, I'm able to grow and harvest a crop about a month sooner than with soil. The buds are a little lighter and there is more green leafy growth, but the time from planting to harvest is shortened, and the yield has increased. Since I got this new hydroponic system, my crops have been consecutive and consistent."

"Then all I have to do is hang up a light, get some hose and connect it to a few buckets filled with rocks, poke some

seeds in and presto, instant pot," said Tom with a sparkle in his eye.

"You have the right idea about the basics. Hanging a halide is a good start, but building your own hydroponic system is not quite as easy as connecting buckets filled with rocks and hose. I threw away several hundred dollars trying to build the perfect hydroponic system. All I got for my efforts was over a year's worth of frustration and four consecutive crop failures," said Ron with disgust. "Instead of reinventing the wheel, I found that it was easiest to buy a time-tested system from a reputable supplier."

Before you buy, learn a few basics about what to look for.

Hydroponic gardening is growing without soil, most often in a soilless mix. With this growing discipline, two of the life-giving factors may be totally controlled: (1) nutrient intake and (2) oxygen intake via roots.

In hydroponics, the inert soilless medium contains nutrients of its own. All the nutrients are supplied by the nutrient solution. This fertilizer solution passes over the roots, flooding around them at regular intervals and later draining off. The oxygen around the roots speeds the plants uptake of nutrients, allowing plants to take in food as fast as they are able to utilize it. In soil, as in hydroponics, the

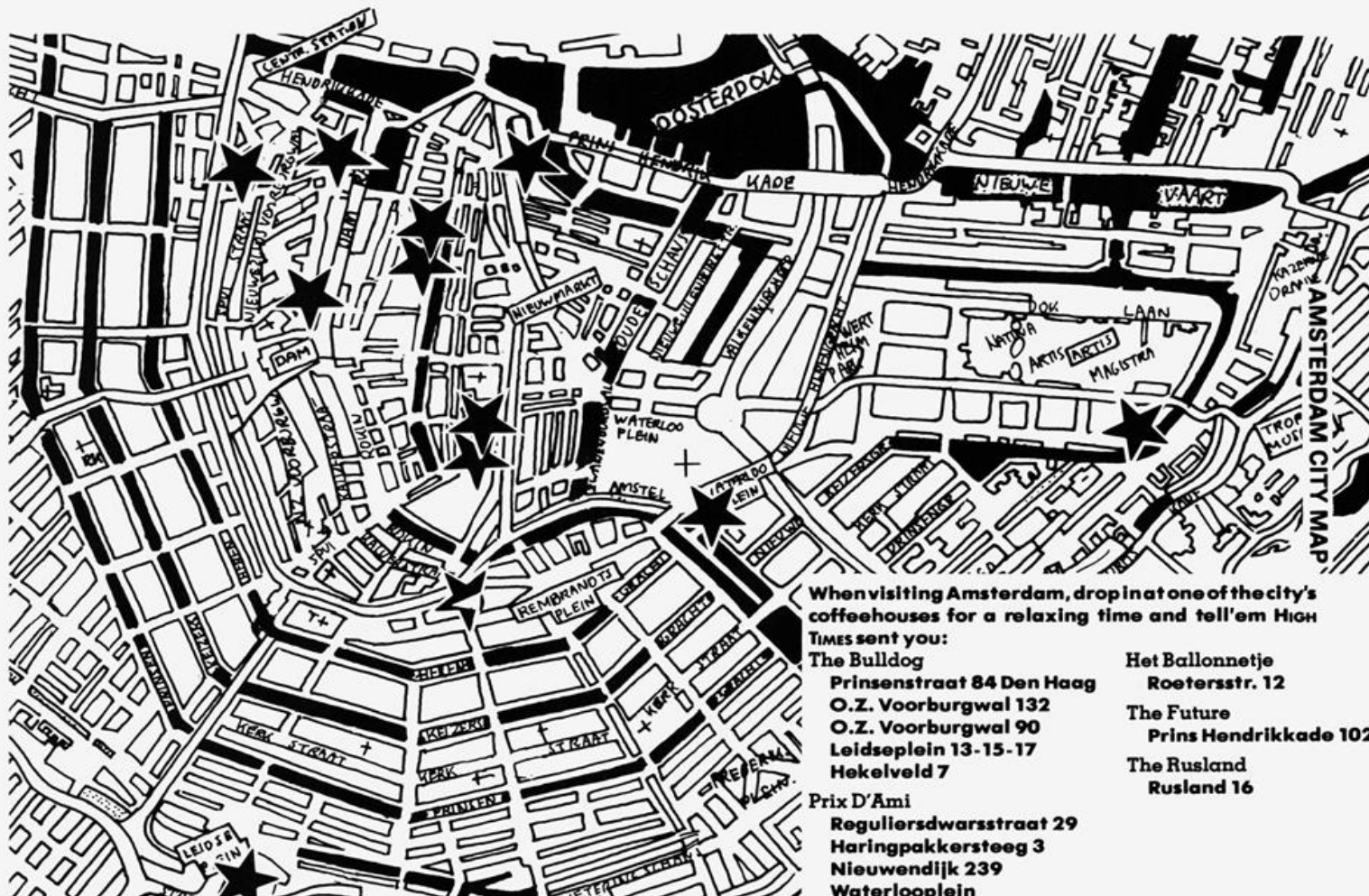
roots absorb nutrients and water, but even the best soil rarely has as much oxygen in it as a soilless hydroponic medium.

Gravel is the inert (non reactionary) medium most commonly used to hold the roots and stabilize the plant while the nutrient solution passes over the roots in one of many ways. The nutrient solution drains away from the roots, so the oxygen has a chance to work with them to draw in the nutrients.

"I started using a hydroponic system and my harvest doubled!" affirmed an anonymous grower. The hydroponic yield is bigger, especially for the novice grower when using a time-tested system. The key for anybody shopping for a hydroponic unit is to know what they want for their particular grow room. Think about your needs. Do you want a crop every four-five months with a minimum of effort? Or do you want a daily harvest of prime buds? How many lamps do you want to engage? How much time do you have to devote to the garden? Is it a full-time job?

The way the nutrient solution reaches the roots determines the physical scope of the system. The most current and productive methods of hydroponic gardening

continued on page 74



When visiting Amsterdam, drop in at one of the city's coffeehouses for a relaxing time and tell'em High Times sent you:

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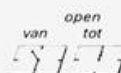
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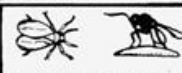
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In 1975, the first comprehensive exhibit of this new work was organized by Edit deAk, an Albanian refugee, art critic, and co-founder of *Art Rite*, an influential art magazine published between 1972 and 1978. Held at Artists Space, the show was titled *Person Into Persona*. Because the genre didn't have a generally recognized title, deAk spent three days trying to write a press release for the event. "I finally settled on the work 'performance,'" she says. "Laurie Anderson was a very important pioneer. Her piece in the show was an extended metaphor for water. She was wearing ice skates on a block of ice, which timed the length of the performance, and she

Island School of Design performed at the Kitchen, an alternative space that was cultivating the new performance artists. The trio called themselves Talking Heads (a television term for news and talk programs). However, since rock music was still offensive to many in the art world, a catalogue published by the Kitchen explained the group's appearance in rather delicate terms: "Talking Heads is a group of performing artists whose medium is rock and roll music and the pursuant 'band' organization and visual presentation. The original music and lyrics are structured within the commercial accessibility of rock and roll sound and contemporary popular

didn't have any more time for my art projects. I guess I consider the band my art project, although I hate to put any kind of label on it. Using the word 'art' tends to scare people off."

Since the members of Talking Heads weren't entirely comfortable with the art world, they migrated over to CBGB. No one knew it at the time, but they were forging a path from SoHo to the East Village that would soon be trod by many others. Once at CBGB, the group toned down its art student rhetoric considerably. Unlike the Ramones, they didn't attract flocks of groupies, but the audience seemed to enjoy seeing a band dressed in Oxford shirts and chinos that sang songs



GODLSS

already had a voice-distortion device, but a very primitive one. Before Laurie, performance was being done by these tough guys, like Vito Acconci. It was: 'hate me, hate me.' Laurie completely reversed that—she was a suction cup for love." The shows were held in the early evening and afterward everyone went to Barney's, a tiny bar in TriBeCa.

Although the English already had a long history of art students turning into rock stars (an exhaustive list that includes members of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Roxy Music), it wasn't until the mid-seventies that the idea seemed to take hold in New York. In 1976, three graduates from the Rhode

language. Described as a cross between Ralph Nader, Lou Reed and Tony Perkins, lead singer David Byrne dresses like the proletariat everyman and relies on Chris Frantz and Martina Weymouth to complete their anti-individualist stance as a group concept."

"When I came to New York I guess I was very naive," Byrne later told a reporter for *Art News*. "I expected the art world to be very pure and noble. I was repulsed by what I saw people putting themselves through, the hustling to try to get anywhere. My natural reaction was to move into a world that had no pretense of nobility. Since I'd always fooled around with a guitar, I formed a rock band. When Talking Heads took off, I

about life in the middle class. Byrne's strangled vocals and tortured stage persona reminded some of a suburban nerd gone mad and the group's best song from the period had a title guaranteed to appeal to the punk sensibility in anyone: "Psycho Killer." (In writing the lyrics, Byrne may have been influenced by one of the greatest garage songs of all time, "Psycho" by the Sonics.) "Talking Heads jerry-built their own version of Top Forty bubble gum—absurd, exuberantly naive little anthems to perseverance and confusion, mixed in with covers such as the 1910 Fruitgum Company's "1,2,3 Red Light," wrote music critic Tom Carson. "It was weirdly liberating." ●

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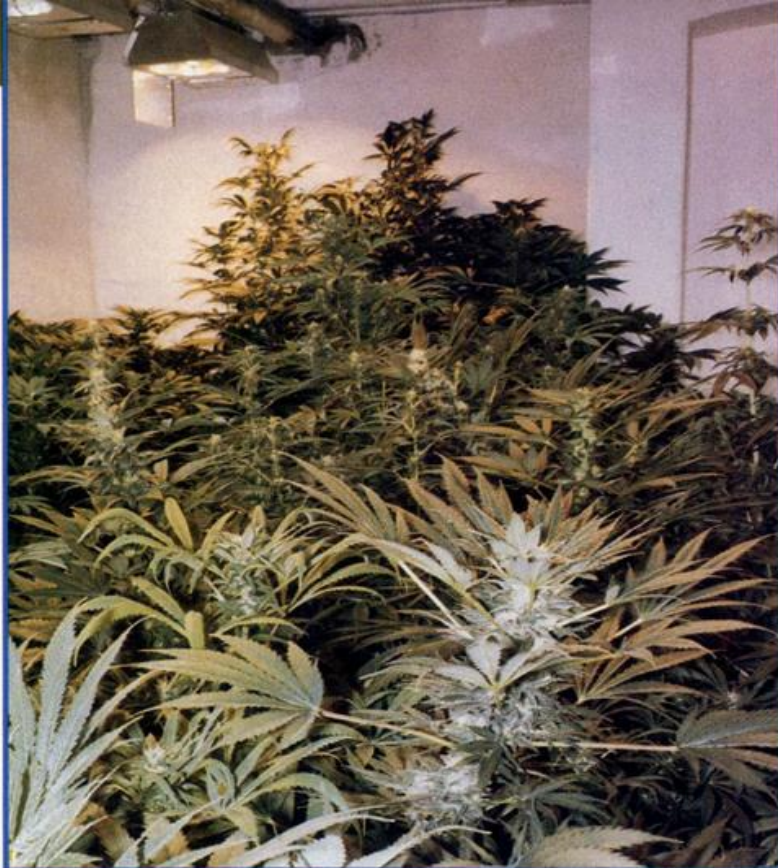


● The plants are started in Rockwool and then placed on larger pieces of the material. Drip emitters irrigate each plant. Each plant is pruned to 4 main branches.

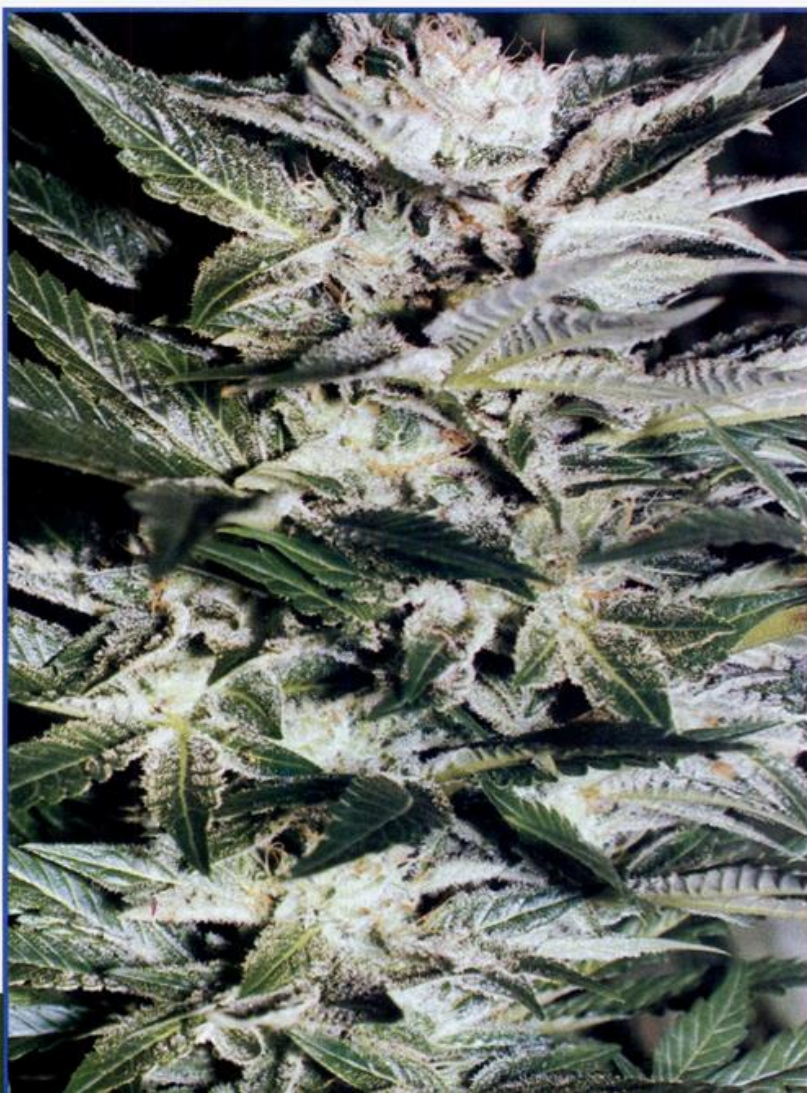


● After cuttings are about a foot tall they are placed in the flowering room. They continue to grow up to six feet as they flower.

● (Right) Closeup of young hybrid buds. The plants are beginning to develop a serious resin condition.



● Flowering room. It's lit by halides and high pressure sodium lamps.



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continued on page 76

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continued from page 61

Dear Ed,

I bought a 1000W high pressure sodium (HPS) light. In ads and articles I've seen they say HPS lamps are for flowering. Can I grow with just an HPS light? Do I need to balance the spectrum?

—The Pyramid Kid
USA

As JJJ has learned, plants can be grown under HPS lamps with no light spectrum "balancer." The plants grow a little faster than they would under halides, but mature a week later. The plants are as healthy as under halides. They are darker green, possibly indicating that they have more chlorophyll, which may be an adjustment to the spectrum.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 87 lumens of MH lamp are needed to achieve the same growth rate as 88 lumens of HPS light require. A 11000W metal halide emits about 125,000 lumens initially and a sodium vapor 140,000 a difference of around 12%.

Dear Ed,

If a person has several pots with marijuana plants growing in a room where he spends many hours including sleeping, could this cause physical effects on the brain or lungs? Is it harmful?

—Angela
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Hanging around live marijuana plants does not have any injurious effect. However the lights emit ultra-violet light which is harmful to the eyes. Sunglasses protect against it. The spectrum of sodium vapor lamps may affect health and behavior.

Dear Ed,

I have two plants that were started from seeds from the same bud of skunk. One looks like a sativa and the other like an indica. Why is this?

—Anonymous,
Houston, Texas

There are a number of possibilities but here are two of them:

1). The seeds had different fathers which had different genetic backgrounds.

2). The plant was a hybrid and crossed with another hybrid. The resulting plants show a number of variations based on their progenitors' backgrounds.

Dear Ed,

I have grown plants in polyester batting like the stuff used to stuff quilts. It holds lots of air and water, is fibrous yet pliable, and it never rots. I put some cuttings into blocks which were stacked together.

I have also used florists' foam as a wick in a reservoir system. Placed in the bottom of a growing container, it draws water like crazy and the roots penetrate.

—R.M.
Kansas

TWO PERSONAL APPEALS!

● As you all know the Oregon Marijuana Initiative is on the ballot in Oregon and is facing stiff opposition from the well-funded prohibitionists. This is the first chance that we have had to take the initiative in the fight for personal freedom. Freedom is not cheap. You have to fight for it, and to pay for it. That is why I am asking every reader of this column to send the people up in Oregon some bucks.

I know that everyone out there cannot afford mucho dollars, but I think that everyone owes the initiative this: the equivalent in dollars of one ounce of grass. Send them whatever you usually buy or sell an ounce for. Some of you are disillusioned with the political process but you'll only kick yourself later if you let this one slip away. Do the right thing and send them some money. Tell them Ed asked you to. Send check or money orders to OMI, P.O.B. 8698, Portland, OR 97207. ●

● As a journalist I am often away on field trips. While I was away on a fact-finding mission for HIGH TIMES, my house was burglarized. The thieves got away with the usual material possessions that can be replaced, but also took my entire collection of Dead tapes. These were mostly high quality recordings that were truly a pleasure to listen to. So I am asking for a personal favor from those of you out there who have some tapes. Could you duplicate a few of your best ones, and send them to me c/o HIGH TIMES. I'd really appreciate it. ●

● I welcome tips, comments and questions regarding marijuana and marijuana cultivation. Also photos for the Bud, Plant and Garden of the Month Contest. If your letter or photo is used in the column you will receive a free copy of my book, **Marijuana Growers Handbook, Indoor Greenhouse Edition**. Send all correspondence to "Ask Ed," High Times, 211 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

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K61	Pink Sm. Heart, Eph.	Tab.	25 mg.	10	3	K63	White, 20/20 w/Spec.
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GREAT INDOORS

continued from page 65

require the nutrient reservoir to drain below into the growing bed. This requires an additional 12"-18" of growing space. The ceiling in your room must be at least five feet, preferably six-seven feet high.

Passive systems rely on capillary action of the wick and the growing medium. The nutrient solution is passively absorbed by the wick, medium and roots. Once the nutrient solution is applied, it is not recovered and recycled. The mediums that are normally used in a wick system are absorbent vermiculite, peat moss, rock wool, etc. The wick system has no moving parts. There is nothing mechanical to break, replace, or malfunction. The wick systems also boast a low initial cost and, once set up and functioning properly, they are little work to maintain. One very efficient use of the wick system has been to root clones. Wick systems are also well suited for young plants and clones.

An "active" hydroponic system actively moves the nutrient solution and is the most productive indoor system. The flood and top feed methods are "active recovery" systems. These systems tend to use mediums that will drain fairly rapidly and hold lots of air: pea gravel, lava pumice rock, or Geolite (TM). The flood method is used by most commercial hydroponic operations and many home systems. The Hydrofarm(TM) and the Aqua Culture hydroponic units are bottom flood systems. This method has proven to be low maintenance and very productive.

The Living System is a good example of the top feed method. The nutrient solution is delivered by a spaghetti hose overhead. The Living System also boasts removable individual "hydrocells" for each plant.

In a flood system, the water flows into the bed, usually from the bottom, pushing the CO₂ rich, oxygen-poor air out. When the medium drains, it sucks the new oxygen-rich air into the growing medium. Top feed systems apply the nutrient solution to the base of each plant with a small hose. The solution is aerated as it flows through the air.

THE RESERVOIR

To empty and refill a hydroponic unit with ease, the system should be able to pump the solution out of the reservoir. If the water must set for a couple of days to let chlorine dissipate or to alter the pH before putting it into the tank, the system should pump water back into the reservoir. This will greatly ease your task as a hydroponic horticulturist. The used nutrient solution may be pumped into the vegetable garden or down the nearest drain but not into a septic tank. Do not try to use this used nutrient solution on other indoor marijuana plants.

If the system is unable to pump the used nutrient solution out of the bed, place the unit at such an altitude that it may be siphoned or drained via gravity flow into a drain or outdoor garden.

The reservoir should contain at least 20% more nutrient solution than it takes to fill the beds to compensate for evaporation. The more volume of liquid, the more forgiving it is and the easier it is to control. The hydroponic manufactured by Salem Halide boasts a large reservoir and low maintenance.

HYDROPONIC NUTRIENTS

I prefer chemical nutrients over stinky organic for hydroponic gardening because they are easier and more consistent to use. Nutrients, whether natural or manufactured, turn into the same chemical elements before they can be absorbed by plants. Chemical fertilizers are rated in parts per million and are easy to measure. Organic chemicals are almost impossible to measure and very inconsistent.

Always use the best fertilizer you can find. Dyna-Gro and Eco-Gro are good complete nutrient formulas that many growers recommend. Most hydroponic manufacturers recommend their own special formula designed for use in their system. All hydroponic fertilizers should have all of the necessary macro- and micro-nutrients. The fertilizers mentioned are complete formulas.

THE NUTRIENT SOLUTION

Use a system that facilitates changing the nutrient solution in the reservoir. The nutrient solution should be changed at least every three (at the most every four) weeks. It can go longer, but growth could slow and deficiencies result. Plants absorb nutrients at different rates; some of the elements run out before others. The pH (the acid to alkaline balance) is also continually changing, due to its reaction to the nutrient uptake. The best form of preventative maintenance is to change the solution often. The nutrients being used at different rates could create a salt (unused fertilizer) build-up. This problem is usually averted by using pure nutrients and flushing the soilless medium thoroughly with fresh, tepid water between nutrient solutions.

Marijuana grows hydroponically within a pH range of 5.8-6.8, with 6.3 being ideal. Changes in the amounts of nutrients in the solution will change the pH. If the pH is not within the acceptable hydroponic range (6-6.5), nutrients may not be absorbed as fast as possible.

Hydroponic stores have pH up (potassium hydroxide) and pH down (nitric acid or white vinegar), a liquid or soluble powders to control the pH in the nutrient solution. It is a good idea to check the pH every day or two to make sure it is at or near the perfect level. ●

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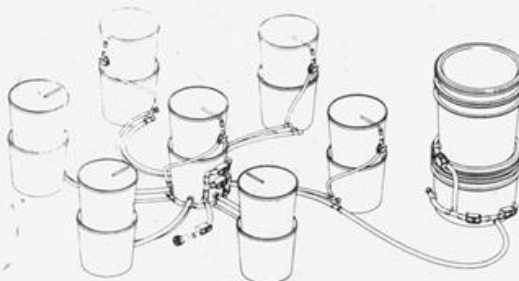


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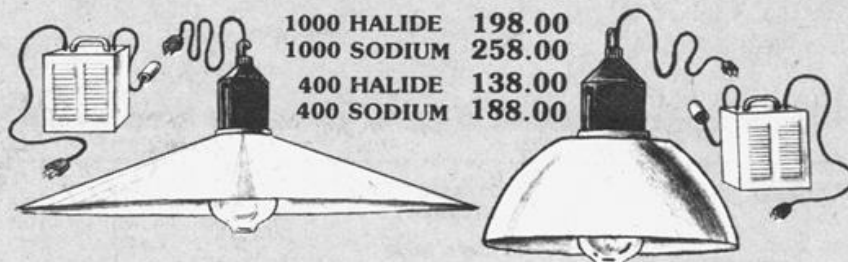


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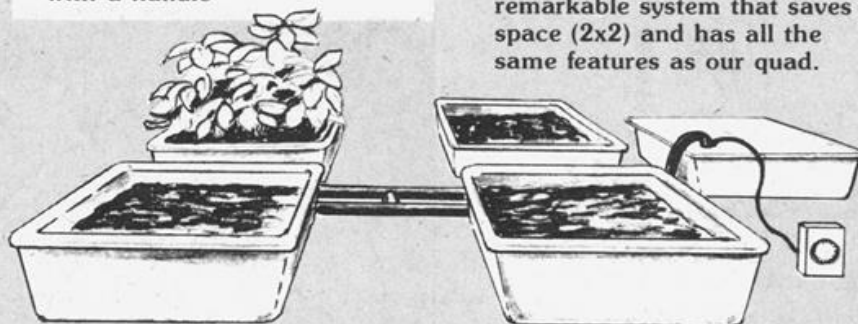
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want to have a crop every month, so I need to start a crop every month. I have two small rooms for seedlings and a room two-thirds the size of my flowering room. I sex the plants in the pre-flowering rooms. I sex the plants in these rooms and the females go into the flowering room. I'm planning to build a set-up for the males so that they can be properly cared for and milked for pollen well away from the females. At present pollination takes place in small cubicles. I also have a four-square meter (48 sq. ft.) room devoted to cuttings of my best stock. They are kept small and in vegetative growth.

Before I flower a plant I take a cutting of it so that its exact genetic makeup is easily preserved.

To start, I designed the flowering room. The floor has a slight inclination to the center paths (about four centimeters per meter, two and one half inches per yard) which flow to a sump pump outside the room. The sump is turned on by an automatic float valve and drains the excess water to sewage.

The floor plan was designed so that each plant is within arms' length of the central paths.

The floor was originally brick, but I laid cement to so the floor would drain well.

Humidity and mold are a big problem in Holland, especially indoors. The drains from the other three grow rooms also lead to the sump. I plan to cover the floor with plastic mats with tubing which are used to heat the roots. Hot water runs through the tubing and keeps the root level warm.

I use rockwool slabs and cut them into slabs 25 x 20 x 10 centimeters (8½ x 7 x 3 ½ inches). This makes the plants easy to move. Since the garden contains many varieties of plants rather than a uniform homogeneous one, it is important to be able to move the plants around so that tall ones don't shade the short ones. It also makes breeding a lot easier. If I was growing a uniform crop I would use the meter mats which are pieces of rockwool 100 x 25 x 10 centimeters, and I would put four plants in each meter mat.

All the bags are covered in white plastic with holes at the bottom for drainage. This helps prevent infections by bacteria or fungus. A 10 x 10 x 7 centimeter starting block is placed on the larger block. That's all there is to transplanting. The small blocks will keep a plant up to 35 centimeters (12 inches).

Each plant is fed with its own dripper which delivers two liters per hour. The plants are watered three times daily, at the beginning middle and end of the growing cycle. I use a professionally recommended hydroponic nutrient solution designed for rockwool. The nutrient solution is a lot weaker than standard solutions because it is given to the plants so often. Each time the plants are watered the new water washes away some of the old water and nutrient solution. However, there is some buildup of nutrient salts in the medium. Water here in Holland has a high pH, about 7.8, so we use formulas to lower it to about 5.5. If that doesn't do it, acid is used. When the medium is measured it ranges below 6.5, which I consider acceptable. The pH is kept purposefully low to make sure the plants can utilize all the nutrients. They are not soluble and, at higher pH levels, the nutrients are not always available to the plants. The Rockwool itself does not hold the nutrients. It just holds a large amount of water, 10-14 times the equivalent amount of soil, and air is available to the roots throughout the medium.

Water is pumped to the plants from a 1000 liter tank. The pump has valves and meters to regulate the pressure and a pvc tube with holes in it to regulate the backflow and at the same time aerate the nutrient solution. The nutrients are stored in two containers in concentrated form. The two solutions are mixed only as they mix with the water in the 1000 liter tank or they will have a chemical reaction which will lead to crystallization. There are two final formulas, one for flowering and one for vegetative growth.

A high efficiency kerosene heater is used to keep the room warm during the cool times. It produces 20% by weight of the kerosene CO₂ (8.7 cubic feet per pound). Once the construction is finished the rooms will be supplied with CO₂ using tanks, and a CO₂ meter and regulator to measure and inject the amount of CO₂.

Right now the walls are just painted white, but the quality of the white leaves much to be desired. I plan instead to cover them with a thin layer of styrofoam which is usually used for insulating damp walls and protecting wallpaper. Styrofoam has a reflective efficiency of over 100% according to a horticultural light manufacturer. This is because the light is diffused in a more efficient manner, reaching parts of the plant that would otherwise be shaded. Styrofoam also has the advantage to be easy to hose down. In combination with floor drainage, this assures a clean growing room. It's also easy to install.

The temperature and humidity are controlled by an exhaust fan. The temperature is kept at 25° centigrade and the humidity at 50-55%. If the humidity or temperature rises above these levels, the fan starts. When they fall below the fan stops.

The main garden, the flowering room, is illuminated with 400 watt HPS and MH lamps, 2/3 sodium, 1/3 halides. The other rooms are lit solely with HPS lamps. I haven't noticed a difference since adding the halides. The lamps are permanently mounted on the ceiling, on rails. The units are specifically manufactured for horticultural lighting. They have effective and even distribution of light. The bulbs are mounted horizontally so that more light reaches the plants. By increasing the number of fixed points of lights the light is distributed more evenly. Two 1000 watt lamps provide only two points of light so that many plant parts are shaded. Five 400 watt lamps use the same amount of current but provide five points of light, and with the horizontal mounting and reflectors the lamps actually throw more light more on the plants than 1000 watt halides. One important reflector innovation is side reflectors on the outer side round lights in the garden. This gets even more light onto the plants rather than the walls. The more fixed points have the same advantage as with light movers, and mounting overhead makes working in the grow room easier.

The plants are pruned to four main branches while they are in the vegetative growth stage. They are about a foot tall. The lights are cut back to 12 hours. The plants tend to grow a bit more before actually flowering and finish off 3-5 feet tall. The light level is maintained at 26,000 lux per square meter. This is about 25% of the light of a sunny day in Holland. ●



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CASE IN POINT

A monthly report on drugs and the law. Written in consultation with
Kevin Zeese, NORML Chief Counsel



● Dutch dope law is
easy on cannabis,
heavy on hard stuff,
and toughest on
cops. ●

DUTCH LAWS

BY RON VAN DER BERG

● Even in Holland, police and judges earn their living prosecuting people for possession of drugs. But in Holland these legal moralizers act in quite a different way than in most countries. In the Netherlands judges regularly take action against the cannabis scene, but often suspend sentencing or give very nominal terms.

The narcotics code here is not as harsh as in most European countries such as France or West Germany. In those countries, people go to jail for possession of small amounts. As long as you possess less than 30 grams of hash or marijuana, it's the same as a parking ticket. They can fine you, but they can't put you in jail. It is very unlikely that you would get busted for soft drugs.

As in most countries, most of the judges here are fusty, overblown moralists when it comes to dope. But to the law, and therefore the courts, there is a difference between products made from the cannabis-plant (e.g. hashish and marijuana) and other stuff (e.g. cocaine, heroin or LSD). The description of hashish in that significant law states that 'hashish is the hash obtained from dried tops or parts of the tops of the Cannabis Sativa plant'. So a clever lawyer once convinced a judge that the hash his client was busted with was not made from these precisely described 'tops.' The lawyer said that in Morocco, where his client got his smoke from, it was very unusual to use tops or even parts of the tops by the production of the hash. The judge believed the defense and was very impressed by this knowledge. He probably thought that he could produce hash as well from the tulip bulbs in his very own garden, and set the suspect immediately free.

After a long and careful research, the black gowns discovered with a shock that

sometimes other parts of the cannabis plant might be used as well during the production of hashish. They made another definition for hash when they realized that under the law as it read they could not put anyone in prison for it. In 1972 the Dutch High Court stated that it makes no difference whether the hash was made from dried tops or other parts of the cannabis plant. Now the courts say hash is hash. The narcotics law stipulates punishment for the sale of all drugs including cannabis, but the authorities are really more interested in hard drugs. The Dutch Minister of Justice released special directives that stipulated that people charged with simple possession should not be prosecuted. Only under exceptional circumstances will authorities invoke the full weight of law. One case happened when the authorities wanted to expel an undesirable foreigner and they used the cannabis laws to do it.

The government has an ambiguous attitude towards marijuana and cannabis. Tax agents consider profits from cannabis sales in figuring coffeshop taxes. In fact one group, the Happy Family, was assessed several hundred thousand dollars. Dutch law stipulates that youth and cultural centers may have house dealers providing the city government approves.

In the Netherlands we have strict laws governing the way the police act, and peoples' rights cannot be violated. Let's say you're driving a car and one of the lights is not working. The cops who stopped you have no other reason to suspect you except that light. But they check everything and during their search they discover a little piece of hash in your pocket. That seems to be enough for them to tell you that you are under arrest. You are taken away for further investigation. Don't worry. As long as you can prove that it was for a car light which didn't work they'd stopped you for, and that they searched you before there was any other evidence to arrest you, your case will be dismissed. Under Dutch law, they had no right to search you. You have a right to remain silent and not answer

their questions. Never speak to the police without a lawyer's advice. Don't let the cops intimidate you by telling that they'll set you free immediately after you give them some information. It's an old trick which has kept a lot of people away from their freedom. Before saying or doing anything you should take advice from the one who's there to defend you.

There was a cannabis dealer in Groningen, in the north of Holland, who was quietly going about his business when his house was cruelly invaded by a number of cops who smashed in his door looking for forbidden fruit.

They found many a kilo and the guy had to go to court. But the judge said that the manner in which the cops got hold of the dope was improper and therefore the resulting evidence was inadmissible. He found that it was not a good thing when cops barged into the dealer's house without knocking, ringing the doorbell, or without substantial evidence regarding the suspect. The judge meant that the infraction on the right of domestic peace shouldn't have been bigger than was justified by the circumstances. So our friend in the north of Holland was released without penalty, although they found an estimated 30 grams. It was the way the cops got hold of their evidence which was considered more illegal than the possession of the dope.

With all this talk of law and punishment, I don't mean to scare you about Holland. The cops don't bother much with smokers and smoke shops. There is nowhere else in Europe or America where smokers have so many rights and such freedom. ●

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Alternative Record Charts

ALBUMS

Robert Cray Band, *False Accusations* (Hightone). They tell me this is a blues record, but Cray's streamlined, chilly emotional workout offers too many musical surprises (and too few 12-bar structures) to be a folkloric recapitulation of form. They also tell me this guy is a hot guitarist, but this record is as cool as ice, or maybe even Television. False accusations, indeed.

Mantronix, *The Album* (Sleeping Bag). Not necessarily coherent as an album, or inspiring as an exposition of street verse. But Mantronix, the electronic half of this words and beats duo, is setting a new standard in dense computerized polyrhythms. Silicon chips or no, these beats swing.

Zazou Bikaye, *Mr. Manager* (Pow Wow). Traces of European slickness do nothing for these Afrobeat/Afro-reggae grooves, but traces of European rock dynamics don't hurt. Somber, haunting, high-tech African music.

Ed Gein's Car, *Making Dick Dance* (EGC). Unreconstructed punk from some folks who refute the artistic, intellectual, and even coherently sentient affectations of many of their more ambitious peers. Although they do regularly stoop to melody. Best Title: "Go Down on my Dog."

Southern Culture on the Skids, *First Album* (Lloyd St.). High-octane hillbilly music, a bunch whose idea of a hillbilly is probably Buddy Ebsen. Short on ideas, but plenty of thrashing garbage energy that never gives way to the easy but unsatisfying tickles of irony.

SINGLES & EPs

Schooly-D, "P.S.K. — What Does It Mean?" b/w "Gucci Time" (Schooly-D). The ultimate gangster rap record, with way too much deplorable violence, but a beat too cool and too dusted to resist. You don't want to know what P.S.K. means.

Big Black, "Il Duce" b/w "Big Money" (Homestead). Smart-assed, hard-assed bunch of early art-punk devotees build a wall of scraping guitar noise, then break it up with a crunching off-center beat.

Raunch Hands, *El Rauncho Grande* EP (Relativity). This New York band takes its stupidity seriously and, in the inebriated tradition of the Replacements, reduces everything in its path to squalor. A rousing tribute to low culture.

Black Uhuru, "Conviction or a Fine" b/w "Fit You Haffe Fit" (RAS). On their first single without Michael Rose, reggae's only Grammy winners play it safe, rehashing old themes and rhythms. But if this single is no "Youth of Eglinton," it still thunders, courtesy of a heavy handed Sly and Robbie rock groove.

Opal, "Northern Line" & "Empty Bottles" b/w "Soul Giver" (Serpent). Psychedelic artificers Kendra Smith from the Dream Syndicate and David Roback from Rain Parade fabricate some lonesome rural blues that sound as contrived but as masterful as their previous stuff.

HIGH FIVES INFO

Hightone, Box 8064, Emeryville, CA 94662

Sleeping Bag, 1974 Broadway, NYC 10023

Pow Wow, 1619 Broadway, NYC 10019

Ed Gein's Car, 617 46th St., Brooklyn, NY 11220

Lloyd St., Box 745, Carrboro, N.C. 27510

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AYAHUASCA

continued from page 43

The night had grown pitch dark. A sliver of moon like a smiling mouth hung over a dark canopy of trees. I was told to make myself comfortable on the platform floor while Salis and Doctor Jerena began to collect things for the ceremony.

A green sheet of plastic was placed on the split bamboo floor and moroella leaves were brought out. Moises provided a bottle of agua diente and black tobacco cigarettes. A book of Latin incantations (highly prized from the way it was handled) was produced by Salis. Doctor Jerena brought a candle, small brown bottle of ayahuasca and serving gourd. The bottle had a cap and looked to have formerly been a fancy beer bottle.

Salis Navarro, the young brujo, was the primary performer and chanter. He permitted me to take photographs prior to the drinking and allowed me to tape the ceremony as it progressed.

When the chanting began, the two doctors, myself, and the man with the wounded leg made a sort of circle on the plastic while the others sat further away. We drank the ayahuasca, which was nearly as dense as Alphonse's preparation. We passed black tobacco cigarettes, sipped agua diente and waited. Vomiting came easily, though I was disappointed that neither of the doctors regurgitated with Alphonse's wild style.

However, the chanting was similar to Alphonse's: a mix of Latin, Quechua, obsolete Spanish, local dialect and typical Peruvian Spanish. I have tried to have the tape translated on several occasions, but could only decipher one small section, which went as follows:

*Dominating, the occult science.
Dominating, the occult spirits.
Calling the occult spirits.
Calling what moves under the current.
Calling the spirits in these moments.
White magic.
Green magic.*



*Red magic.
Black magic.
Vampires of the demons.
Cover us with your shadow.
In these moments I want to be granted my desires.
Fly, fly little body that was born free.
Fly, fly little body that was born free.*



There were no visions this time, no birds to fly with. Instead, I felt a great rending of my spirit, as though the chanting of the doctors was a wedge splitting me in half. Part of me made sense of the split, but another part was terrified I would not be able to put myself back together. (Jokes were made that I was occasionally delirious, but I could find no evidence of this on the tape.) I walked 50 yards to the river and listened to the music of the night, unmolested by mosquitoes. The river had a similar rhythm to the chanting, but I dared not go in as the eyes of several cayman stared at me from across the bank.

The ceremony lasted perhaps two hours, and then Moises said it was time to return to our hut.

The next morning Moises sent me out to bathe. I considered ignoring his suggestion, but in the next second I slipped into the muddy river bank, forcing myself to "become whole again."

I didn't have another opportunity for taking ayahuasca. Moises said the magical effects I'd experienced the first time were not to be sought for or missed. When I needed the bird, the drug would guide me, but when I simply needed to become friendly with the jungle, the drug would guide me in a different way. I don't know if he was justifying the apparent lack of effect or telling the truth. I do know that for the next two weeks I rarely used my flashlight except for reading and that I could see, without actually seeing, the dangers of the jungle when hunting or fishing.

And now, months since I last took the drug, I wake sometimes and think I hear ceremonial chanting. And sometimes I realize I've been flying with my bird, seeing strange things clearly that I should have no knowledge of. ●

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Sunburst Holidays

continued from page 39

ACID DREAMS

LSD influenced much of mid-1960's rock, but it was the Beatles who most lavishly and accurately captured the psychic landscape of the altered state. Their first acid-tinged songs appeared on *Revolver* (1966). "She Said She Said" was inspired by a conversation in California with Peter Fonda during Lennon's second LSD trip. Fonda talked about taking acid and experiencing "what it's like to be dead." The album also featured Lennon's "Dr. Robert," a song about a New York physician who dispensed "vitamin shots" to the rich and famous. On the final track, "Tomorrow Never Knows," Lennon exhorted his listeners to turn off their minds, relax, and float downstream. Originally titled "The Void," this song was inspired by Leary's *Tibetan Book of the Dead* manual, which Lennon was then reading while high on acid. On it he used the first of many "backward" tapes while tripping in his studio late one night. He even considered having a thousand monks chant in the background. Although that proved unrealistic, it pointed up Lennon's growing obsession with musical special effects, which would reach an apotheosis on *Sgt. Pepper*.

By the time Sgt. Pepper was recorded, all of the Beatles were getting high on acid. Paul McCartney, the last Beatle to take LSD, made candid admissions to the press about his use of psychedelics, causing an uproar. "It opened my eyes," he told Life magazine. "It made me a better, more honest, more tolerant member of society." If the leaders of the world's nations were to take LSD even once, McCartney insisted, they would be ready to "banish war, poverty and famine."

Teen America got its first look at the psychedelized Beatles on Dick Clark's American Bandstand, in a film clip accompanying the release of "Strawberry Fields Forever." Their hair was longer, they had grown moustaches, and they were dressed in scruffy, slightly outlandish clothes. Lennon especially looked like a different person, with his wire frame glasses, Fu Manchu, and distant gaze. That was how he appeared on the cover of *Sgt. Pepper*, where on close inspection, according to Lennon, "you can see that two of us are flying, and two

aren't." John and George had taken LSD for the photo session.

Sgt. Pepper is a concept album structured as a musical "trip." The Beatles play the part of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, an old-time musical group, that takes its listeners on a sentimental journey through the history of music from ballads and folksongs to dancehall tunes, circus music, and rock and roll. Above all, the music is blatantly psychedelic. The album includes at least four cuts with overt drug references, and the entire LP utilizes sound effects in novel ways to evoke unique mental images and create an overall psychedelic aesthetic.

It is difficult to overstate this record's importance in galvanizing the acid subculture. For the love generation, *Sgt. Pepper* was nothing less than a revelation, a message from on high. Thousands of people can still recall exactly where and when they first heard the magical chords of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" wafting in the summer breeze. This was the cut on which Lennon celebrated the synesthetic peak of an acid trip. The hallucinatory visions of "tangerine trees," "marmalade skies," "newspaper taxis," and "looking glass ties" mesmerized the multitudes of Beatle fans who listened to *Sgt. Pepper* on pot and acid until the grooves were worn out. Lennon said that the title of the song, rather than standing for LSD, was inspired by his son's drawings, but his disclaimer had little effect on the general interpretation of the lyrics.

The Blue Meanies immediately denounced the album. The ultra-right-wing John Birch Society charged that *Sgt. Pepper* exhibited "an understanding of the principles of brainwashing" and suggested that the Beatles were part of an "international communist conspiracy." Spiro Agnew, then governor of Maryland, led a crusade to ban "With a Little Help from My Friends" because it mentioned getting high. And the BBC actually did ban "A Day in the Life," with Lennon singing "I'd love to turn you on."

Next month:
The conclusion of THE GREAT SUMMER DROPOUT: Charles Manson, STP and the end of a dream.

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RONNIE ROACH

BY COOKIE MUELLER



● Our HIGH ADVISOR is bugged again, this time by Ronzo's roach-like Rambolism. ●

I would bet that Ron Reagan's favorite maxim is "only the strong survive."

Well, if you look at animals, you see this is pretty true. The less spunky ones are winnowed out, and the ones with stamina and blind determination are getting bigger everyday. Take a look at an average cockroach.

Three hundred million years ago, during the Carboniferous Age, cockroaches were walking around amid the ferns and amphibians. That 300 million year-old roach looked just the same as the one that lives in the cabinet under your kitchen sink. Same cute little hard-shelled body, same shapely legs, same eager antennae, same bouncy stride. The only difference that I can imagine is that now they have modernized their perceptions to fit the atomic age and civilization.

The cockroach should have been Ron's campaign mascot. A picture of the roach should be the symbol of his term in office.

The tenacity of the roach is what Ron admires most in human beings. I wonder if, when he steps on a roach, he realizes that he is actually destroying a higher, more evolved life form? I wonder if he knows he is squashing the creature, whose spirit epitomizes the spirit of his presidency?

There are a few other animals who would fit into this category too, like sharks, scorpions, clams. Despite what they look like, clams are not lazy; they're all muscle and we all know that they're the happiest of animals. I'm sure, since Ron's language is all idioms, sayings and maxims, he often uses the phrase, "happy as a clam," when asked how he feels about some issue.

This is Ron's religion, his house of worship... not the tangible physical structure, but a bunch of maxims strung together. His religion is based on the strength of the human being to pull himself up by the proverbial bootstraps. Strong to him means hard-shelled, food-fierce, and work-oriented. Work, work, work and you'll win, win, win. It's true, but who wants to work that hard just for a dumb bank account?

Talking about Ron's religion, have you ever seen him going to church? At least he's not a born again Christian or a fake Presbyterian. Unfortunately, he isn't a thoughtful, intelligent pagan either. That would be an ideal president, a pagan, because there would be a certain amount of open mindedness and lack of prejudice. Well, at least he doesn't ask us to pray with him.

Evidence of Ron's beliefs about the human work spirit are everywhere these days. Turn on the TV and flip the channels starting at 11 p.m. There're all these programs about millionaire makers, people like Ed Begley who, with no money down and no credit, became a millionaire in real estate. Ed Begley goes into it, telling us step by step how we all can do it. Propaganda, kids. Ok, but what if a person isn't bright enough to work with all those pesky figures? What if some people don't seem to have that business savvy?

Ron has a plan for the people he thinks are the quasi-retarded of America and it all starts with the new planned budget cuts. You know about the cuts he recently proposed? He wants to cut education, housing, medicaid, welfare and government aid—in fact, everything, except defense of course.

Okay, suppose these cuts go into effect. Obviously the poor would be even poorer. In

fact, they would be starving, a lot more than they are already. There would be no way for them to find a place to live, no way to find food or work. And where would young people who really wanted an education possibly find one they could afford with no government help? The answer is obvious. They'd have no choice but to enter the army. There they have a roof, meals, education. There is no other option for them. So tricky Ron, by making these budget cuts is really strengthening the militia. There'll be lots more people in the army, which is exactly what he wants. I don't know why he is so paranoid.

Okay, now for the other kinds of people who wouldn't dream of joining the army no matter how hungry they are, there is only one other viable alternative to make enough money to live: they have to turn to crime like robbing and stealing, or more peaceful means like drug trafficking.

Now when the upper middle class bunch is being ripped off of the dumb things they bought and worked so hard for they're going to be awful mad. There's going to be a call for more police protection, and the poor people who didn't join the army will join the police force, another guaranteed job which puts food on the table.

So in the end, we have a total military and police government, all because of these budget cuts, I warned you.

Really, Ron has gone off the deep end this time with these budget cuts. It's all about the spirit of the cockroach: the great work ethic smashing ideas, creativity and intellectualism.

The core of the problem here, as I see it, is Ron's imagined superiority. He truly believes he is the smartest man in the world and everybody else is dumb—your basic uncultured, hillbilly attitude. Also, probably the attitude of working insects: ants, bees, flies and roaches.

But I have to stop now, I get too mad when I think about Ron. He is one human being that really bugs me. ●

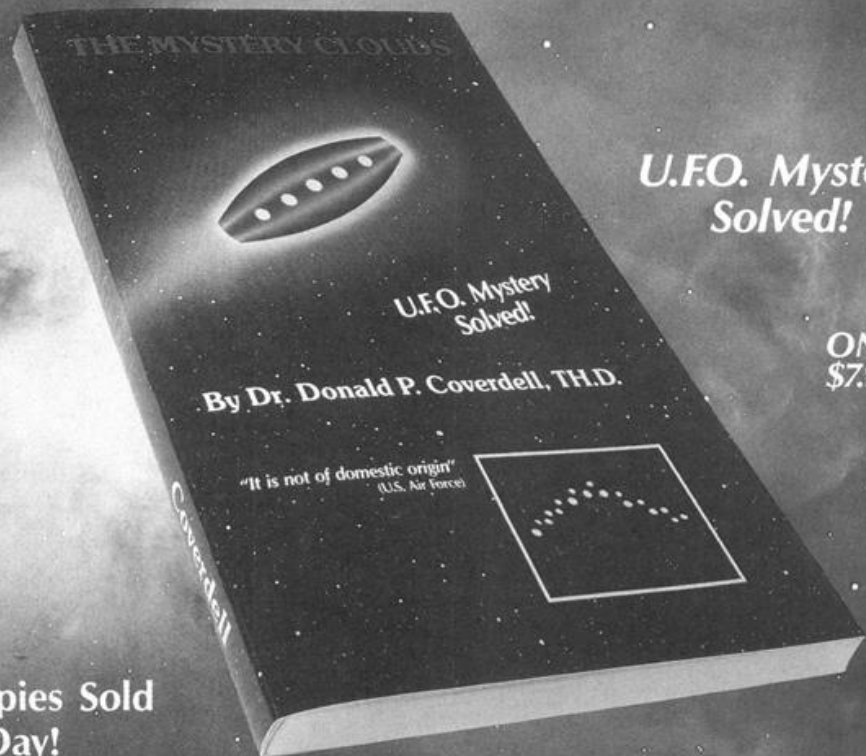
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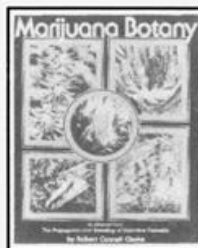


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YOUNG HOLLAND

continued from page 49

C: I also speak a little German and I read French. I took them for four years each in school.

M: I speak the same. In the seventh year of school, the beginning of high school, you take four languages, English, German and French.

In the cities a large portion of the population is not native Dutch stock but they are integrated into the Dutch culture a lot. This doesn't mean that ethnic groups don't stick together, but that they learn Dutch, the kids go to Dutch schools and

they develop friendships with their schoolmates and neighbors. There is a bit of intermarriage too because people are always interested in the exotic.

Most Dutch kids hate the army and especially nuclear weapons. They're almost universally opposed. But because of NATO the government has compromised the peoples' interests and is taking them. There is universal draft for boys here. They are supposed to go at 18 but it is postponed for university students only. It's hard to get out of, but there are alternative programs for conscientious objectors. The army is 14 months and the alternative is 18 months with less pay.

We lived in a squat for three years. By law, if a house is empty for a year you are allowed to move in without the landlord's permission. He can only get you out when he has useful plans for the house. I've had

to move five times in three years, when the houses were sold.

You're not legally allowed to break into a house, so that you have to do it surreptitiously. Once you're there for 24 hours though, you're legal; then you have the same rights as any other tenant except that there is no rent. The electricity company demands a deposit five times as high as normal.

It's getting harder to squat now. The laws have been made stricter. Part of the reason is that buyers had squatters move in so that the price of the property would deflate.

At one point, the squatters and police fought pitched battles. Over 500 squatters and even more police clashed. A lot of people were hurt, and in November, a squatter died in police custody. This has caused in a big scandal in Holland. ●

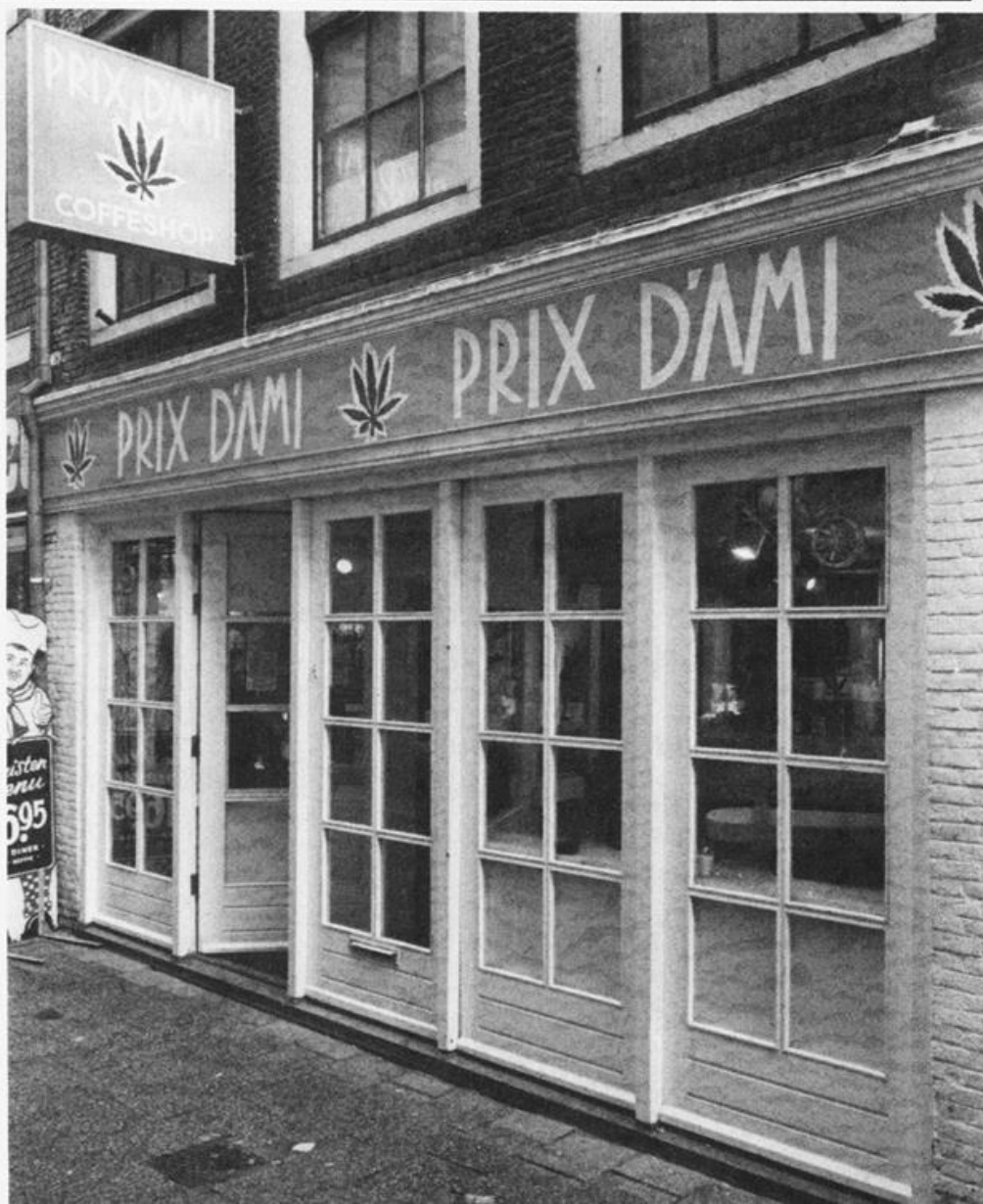
continued from page 47

sit in their windows just a few blocks from the Queen's palace. By the way, did you ever hear of a Queen retiring? Well the last one did; she's alive and kicking but she abdicated in favor of her daughter. She said that thirty years is enough."

The people sitting around the table then asked me what I thought of American politics. They couldn't believe Reagan's foreign relations policies. I guess they have a different perspective than most Americans because the risk factors are greater in Europe. The border with East Germany is a day's drive away and Libya's jets are just a short sky hop across the Mediterranean and up the coast of Europe. Put simply, I think that Reagan's policies are a total failure and that America's power and prestige are eroding quickly along with its industrial base. His policy is based on a reverse of Teddy Roosevelt's "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

The people around the table then asked me about the government's pot policies. After hearing about the U.S. government's plans, I said it was worse than Germany and lit a hash and tobacco joint. ●

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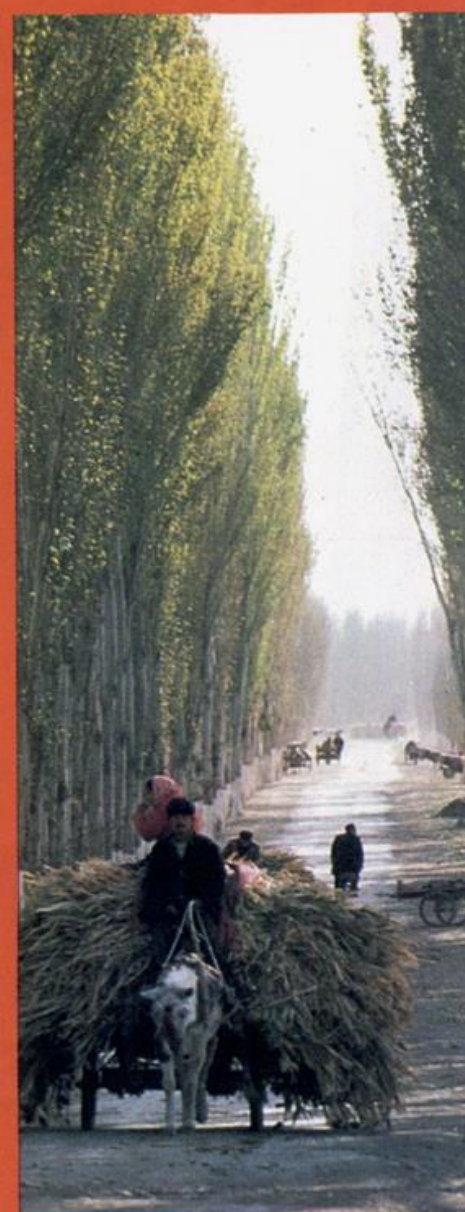
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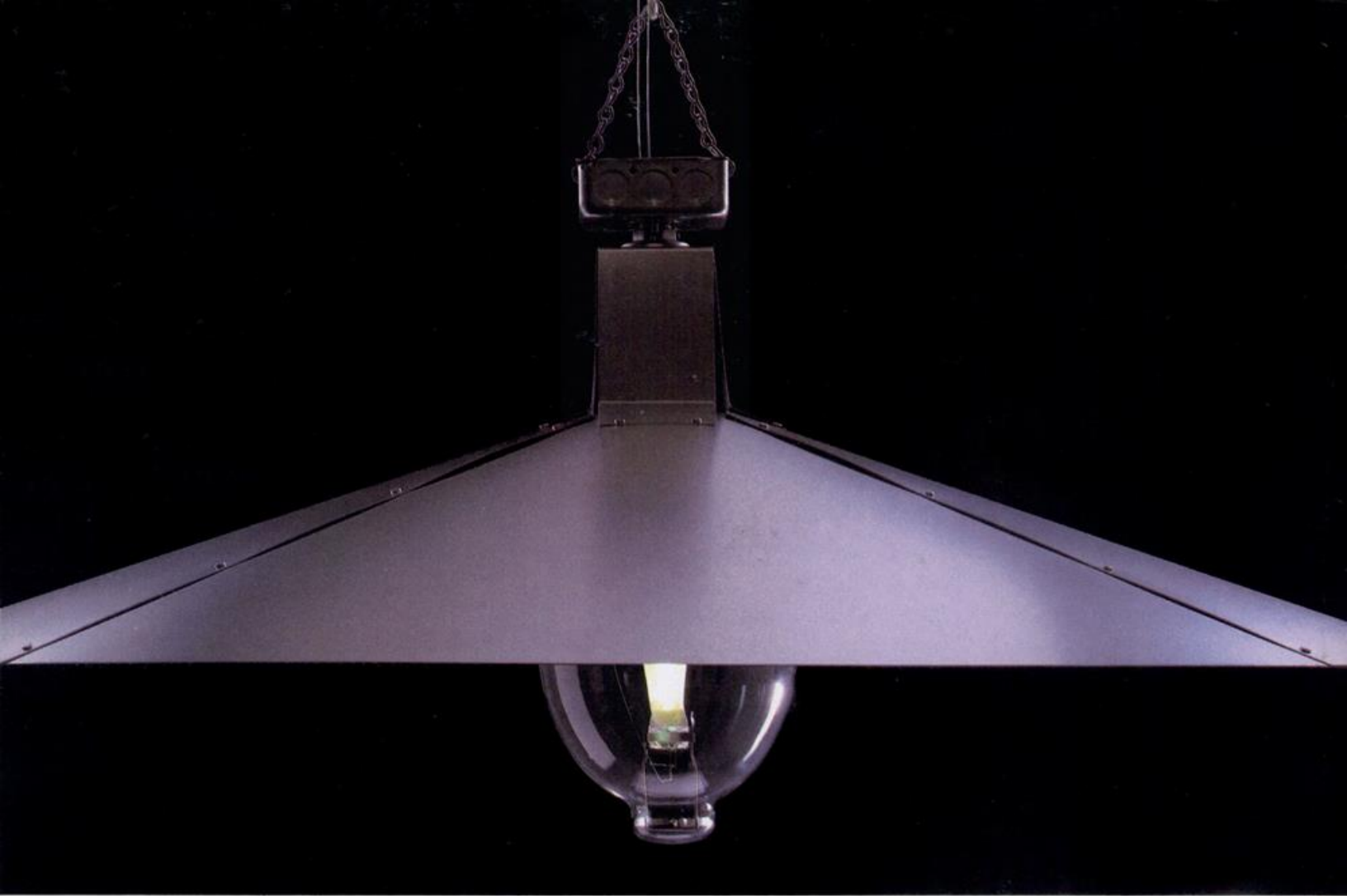
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